

spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

January, 1969

New Series, Price 6d.

HANDICAP NO BAR TO THIS £500 PRINCESS CONTEST

Front page splash

Director demands action

A FOUR-POINT demand for immediate action by the Government to help in the fight for children who cannot fight for themselves was made by the Director of the Spastics Society, Mr. James Loring, speaking at Sheffield.

Mr. Loring said that out of a programme of some 78 new capital projects of over £1 million each, listed in the latest Ministry of Health report, only two related to sub-normality hospitals.

The position had been brought to the notice of the authorities by The Spastics Society on numerous occasions, and little or no action had been taken.

Arousing public conscience

"As a matter of extreme urgency," he said, "the Government should review published plans for Regional Hospital Boards and local authorities and put the following plans into action without delay:

1. The creation of more hostels, day centres, treatment units and short-stay facilities for handicapped children.
2. Establishment of non-medical regimes to enable medical and nursing staffs to be used where their skills could be put to best use.
3. More training and teaching, at undergraduate level, in the field of sub-normality.
4. An effective Central inspectorate to protect the interests of all patients in sub-normality institutions.

"The Spastics Society intends to carry on the fight on every possible occasion until the public conscience is fully aroused and the Government is moved to spend more money in this so far sadly neglected field," said Mr. Loring.

He was speaking on presenting a £5,050 cheque to initiate a new research project at Sheffield University concerning handicapped children.



Researchers at the University's Department of Psychology will use the grant—£5,050 a year for five years—to explore, among other things, possible similarities between a spastic child's sensations and those of an orbiting spaceman. In tests, computer games will be used and (above) Oonagh Connolly, daughter of Mr. K. J. Connolly, co-director of research, plays one of the games as sister Sarah and (left to right) Mr. Loring, Prof. H. Kay and Mr. Connolly look on.

£2,000 to be won stage by stage

There will be big prizes at each stage of the contest to find a National Charity Queen and Princess, all of which will be donated by well known firms.

Regional Pool Promotions are also offering cash prizes totalling £2,000 from their own "pocket."

The winners will each receive £500 and the runners-up £150 each. The third prizewinner in each section will receive £100, the fourth £75, and the girls who come fifth £50. The remainder of the £2,000 will be awarded at regional final stage.

Contestants may elect to enter the Princess title without competing in the Queen section of the contest. This means a handicapped person may enter for the Princess title.

Entry forms and other information are available from The Organiser, National Charity Queen Contest, Regional Pool Promotions Ltd., P.O. Box No. 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol 1.

THE Spastics Society and other charities will benefit from a £2,000 beauty contest this year.

Hundreds of business and industrial concerns are being asked to sponsor their most attractive girl employees for the title of National Charity Queen and also nominate candidates to become National Charity Princess.

Universities, clubs, technical colleges, local authorities and other organisations are also being asked to select entrants.

Overall sponsors and organisers, Regional Pools Promotions Ltd., hope the event will raise at least £25,000.

The "sponsoring fee" for each organisation nominating a girl is £25—which will be donated to charity.

The titles will be contested simultaneously—that for the National Charity Queen on the basis of charm and personality, with the National Charity Princess title going to the girl who collects the most for charity by her own efforts.



"My, oh my! Am I enjoying myself!" Little girl making a big splash on this page is eighteen-month-old Sarah Laing of Edinburgh, who, with her floats, can swim from one end of Peebles Hydro Pool to the other. But her freedom in the pool has about it a touch of irony. For, like many of the thousands of spastic children born every year, she may never be able to walk unaided.

(Picture by courtesy of the Glasgow Daily Record).

Shropshire group get custom-built Rolls-Royce aid

By MIKE COOK

THE mighty Rolls-Royce company, which not only turns out the world's most luxurious car but also makes engines for jet aircraft, has turned its attention to the needs of the spastic child.

At the firm's OED Engine Division in Shrewsbury, four engineering apprentices have made a walking aid for a child attending a spastic centre.

The aid, which consists of four wheels and a harness and is made of metal and wood, took the apprentices about five months to design and construct.

It formed part of their training at the firm's apprentice training school in Shrewsbury.

Mr. J. M. Hewitt, drawing instructor at the OED division, said: "We always like to be useful and feel that we should be able to contribute something to people less fortunate than ourselves."

Mr. Hewitt said the apprentices involved in the project were aged between 17 and 19.

Publicity officer for the Shropshire Group and deputy county welfare officer, Mr. E. Cowen, said of the apprentices: "They did a magnificent job."

M.P.'s pension bid for disabled

MR. JIM PRIOR, M.P., has been successful in the ballot for Private Members' Bills in the Commons and is to seek legislation which would provide pensions for those who are disabled but do not qualify for benefit under either National Insurance or War Disability schemes.

Mr. Prior's Bill is particularly concerned with disabled housewives and those who

have been disabled since childhood and are unable to work. As many as 340,000 people, many of them spastics, could benefit.

The main provision would be to give the Government authority to introduce an Order to provide pensions or allowances, such as giving the constant attendance allowance to the totally disabled.

It would also give power to

require a proportion of council houses to be fitted with appropriate aids for the disabled, and make similar requirements where public buildings are concerned—libraries, places of entertainment, banks and similar establishments.

"There is no excuse for not dealing with the problem, which for far too long has been neglected to the shame of us all," said Mr. Prior.

Relax in a Radox bath

After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

With Christmas receding and the New Year under way, the early whispering of holidays mounts to a new pitch of excitement. What does the summer hold in store for you? Spastic or not, you can still be among the get-away people...

As in previous years, The Spastics Society has arranged a number of group holidays for 1969.

There will be two camps at Woodlarks, Farnham, Surrey. This is the life for the out-of-doors types, sleeping under canvas and on straw mattresses on the ground—though camp beds are provided for those who prefer them.

But it's not all rigorous living, by any means. The camp buildings include a large dining hut and recreation room; a dormitory for those not allowed to sleep in tents, good toilet facilities and even bathrooms. There is an open-air cookhouse, the camp is provided with constant hot water, and there are facilities for electric shavers.

The first holiday of the year is held here. It is:

THE INITIATIVE CAMP

May 31 — June 7

This is especially for the more severely disabled, wheelchair cases being accepted. Helpers are provided, but all campers are expected and encouraged to assist in all camp chores.

Activities include swimming (in a heated outdoor pool), boating, riding, fishing, archery and sports. Fee: £5 a head.

'62 CLUB CAMP

Sept. 6 — 13

The second camp is reserved for those who are independent so far as self-care is concerned. These holiday-makers should be fully mobile—there are no helpers, but the Club's officer and his staff administer the camp and arrange the catering. The facilities are those applic-

GET-AWAY HOLIDAYS FOR 1969

able to the Initiative Camp. Fee: £5 a head.

BRIGHTON

Aug. 16 — 23

The people of the parish of Saltdean, near Brighton, have extended an invitation to 20 spastic adults to spend a holiday at Saltdean.

Applicants should be reasonably independent for personal care, although it would be possible to accept some who use wheelchairs. Everyone will be comfortably accommodated in Saltdean Church Hall, and a full programme of entertainment and outings will be arranged.

This holiday is really intended for those who would otherwise not be able to afford to go away. Guests will only be asked to supply their own pocket money and, if possible, to cover their travelling costs.

LONDON

June 28 — July 5

There will be a holiday for adult spastics at the Fitzroy Square Centre in London. A certain number of wheelchair cases could be accommodated, but anyone requiring personal help would have to be accompanied.

This is a chance to really see the capital; most of the week, in fact, will be spent in sightseeing in and around London, Fitzroy Square being centrally situated and a fine base for outings.

Those who have never before had much opportunity to visit the city and to discover its

many attractions will relish this holiday.

Costs are being kept as reasonable as possible and will probably be about £12 10s. a person.

GRANGE FARM

July 20 — Aug. 3

The Society are making a block booking at the W.R.V.S. Winged Fellowship special pavilion for the disabled at Grange Farm Holiday Centre, Chigwell, Essex.

It will provide a fortnight's holiday for 32 unaccompanied adult spastics. A limited number of chair cases, incontinents and people who need all personal help will be accepted, but not bed cases.

Entertainments and outings are arranged and the cost will be £21 per person.

In addition to the holidays arranged by the Society, there are a very large number of hotels, guest houses, holiday homes, bungalows, caravans and flats for adults and children where the needs of spastics are catered for.

A guide to this type of accommodation is available from the Family Services and Assessment Centre, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1, W1P 5HQ (Telephone 01-387 9571).

Application forms and further details about the Society's group holidays may be obtained from Mrs. W. R. Greenwood, the Holiday Organiser, at the above address. But please write as early as possible to minimise the possibility of disappointment. Now is not too soon...



Having a wonderful time. Wish you were here? Well, why not, this year?

An athetoid at large (alone) on the Italian Riviera

LAST YEAR it was a case of going on holiday alone or missing my usual dose of Mediterranean sunshine. I decided to pluck up courage to venture forth by myself for the first time.

Having already been on several package holidays, I felt that this was the ideal way to go abroad alone. Travelling with a party, you are shepherded safely through each change-over by couriers, but once at your hotel you are quite free from organised jollity. Also, your £50 allowance goes further on a package tour.

My choice for my solo venture was Diano Marina on the Italian Riviera. We flew by charter plane to Genoa, where we transferred to a bus for the journey westward along the coast road.

I was delighted to find that my room, instead of overlooking a dingy courtyard, like single rooms in most hotels, was at the side of the building. It had a superb view across the little town and the bay with its background of fertile hills.

Between the hotel and the beach there was only a narrow one-way street, which could be crossed in comfort. I hired a deckchair

and umbrella and, under the relaxing influence of the sun, hardly stirred from the spot, except to swim three or four times a day.

I managed to tear myself away from the beach once, for a coach trip across the border to France and Monaco. Here, amid the splendid Edwardian opulence of Monte Carlo casino, I won one franc on a fruit machine.

In the evenings at Diano Marina, I usually went out with two other English girls who were staying at the hotel. We strolled along the palm-lined promenade, gazed longingly but poverty-stricken at late-opening shops in the plushy Corso Roma, ate pizza at a picturesque candle-lit restaurant or drank our after-dinner capucini on cushioned swings outside one of the many cafes.

Altogether, the venture was quite a success, although I should probably have felt rather lonely in the evenings if I hadn't been lucky enough to meet other congenial English people.

Elizabeth Miller

Other people, other plans in guide

As well as The Spastics Society, other organisations are making plans for group holidays. These range from organisations for the physically handicapped to the National Association of Youth Clubs.

The latter arrange residential training courses throughout the year for physically handicapped people of normal intelligence and for able-bodied young people. The courses offer a variety of work at chosen interests and plenty of outdoor and social activities.

Details of group holidays outside the Spastic Society are included in the accommodation guide available from Fitzroy Square.

IS THE ANSWER TO YOUR PROBLEM HERE?

THE ARUNDEL HOTEL stands on the front at Westcliff-on-Sea and has a good view of the shipping in the Thames Estuary.

It caters for spastics of all ages, either alone or with their families or friends. Nineteen guests can be accommodated and people with other handicaps are accepted out of season. The spacious lounge, dining room, sun lounge and games room are all on the ground floor and a lift serves the bedrooms upstairs. There

is full central heating throughout.

The hotel is within easy reach of the pier, theatres, shops and other entertainments. Guests can bathe in the sea from the hotel's own beach hut and there is also a specially-equipped mini-bus in which they are taken on trips.

Applications for accommodation should be sent to:—

Mrs. M. E. Scott, Arundel Hotel, 23, The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. (Phone 0702 49351).

THE BEDFONT at Clacton, caters mainly for adult spastics. There are houseparents to look after severely handicapped guests who come without an escort.

Apart from summer holiday-makers, spastics come to the Bedfont all through the year in times of family crisis or while awaiting entry to a residential home. Guests in these circumstances may stay for periods of up to six weeks and handicraft work is provided as

well as the usual holiday pursuits.

The hotel, which has room for 19 guests, stands in its own garden facing the sea and has a beach hut on the lower promenade. The hotel's own transport takes guests on tours, picnics and visits to the theatre, cinema and wrestling. Variety concerts and film shows are held on the premises during the winter.

Warden: Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneux, The Bedfont Spastics Hotel, Marine Parade, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex (Phone 0255 25230).

COLWALL COURT at Bexhill in Sussex, is run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Many rooms in the building are named after relatives or children of the Stars who have donated the furnishings.

It has beds for 18 unaccompanied young spastics up to the age of 16. There are two house-mothers on the staff as well as a night nurse and an S.R.N., so that the more severely handicapped children can be well looked after.

The hotel has its own private stretch of beach with a "funicular railway" down from the promenade. There is also an indoor bathing pool in the grounds of the hotel itself.

On wet days, the children can play in the large sun-rooms or go for rides in the mini-bus.

Manager: Mr. G. H. Marsh, Colwall Court, Pages Avenue, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex (Phone: Bexhill 1491).

ELLERSLIE COURT is at Southport, on the North-west coast. It takes both adults and children and is also ideal for family holidays. There is a trained nurse on the staff and many spastics make return visits unaccompanied in order to give their parents a break.

The entrance to the hotel is by a gently-sloping ramp from which a lift takes guests to the dining-room, well-appointed bedrooms and lounges with TV and other amusements. There are indoor and outdoor play facilities and a laundry where guests can do their own washing. Guests can be met at the railway and bus stations by ambulance if necessary.

The hotel is situated close to the beach, amusement parks and Southport's famous Lord Street shopping centre.

Enquiries to:— Miss E. Owen, S.R.N., Matron, Ellerslie Court Holiday Home for Spastics, 38 Westcliffe Road, Birkdale, Southport, Lancs. (Phone Southport 68545).

THE ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

WELCOMES SPASTICS AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR HOLIDAYS ALL THE YEAR ROUND

H. & C in all rooms. Full Central Heating. Comfortable Lounges. T.V. games room. Seafront position. Own beach hut nearby. Apply: Mrs. M. E. Scott, Manageress, 23 The Leas, Westcliff, Essex.

COME TO ELLERSLIE COURT HOLIDAY HOME FOR SPASTICS SOUTHPORT for a

WINTER or EARLY SPRING HOLIDAY

Central Heating throughout. Mild Climate. Excellent Shops. Ramp and lift for wheel chairs. Apply: Miss E. A. Owen, S.R.N., R.S.C.N., Matron, 38 Westcliffe Road

Don't be left out in the cold this summer — join a

GROUP HOLIDAY 1969

and have your share of sunshine and fun

Write (now) for free brochure to:

THE HOLIDAY ORGANISER, 16 FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1.

STILL MORE HOLIDAYS

THE YEARLY publication, "Holidays for the Physically Handicapped" giving addresses and information of various types of holiday accommodation is produced jointly by the Central Council for the Disabled, 34 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1 and the British Red Cross Society, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

Copies are available from either address at 3s. 6d. each including postage.

Come to sunny Clacton, and stay at THE BEDFONT HOTEL MARINE PARADE WEST

Sloping access to beach for wheel chairs. Hot and cold water; Central Heating; TV Lounge; Spacious Sun Lounge. Mystery Tours. Picnics. Pleasure plane-trips and sea trips available. Every facility. Write to: THE WARDEN, MRS. J. P. R. MOLYNEUX.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY OFFER FOR FAMILIES ONE WEEK ONLY: 17th—24th MAY

Rent-a-Chalet at Pontin's Holiday Village, Ainsdale Beach, Southport, Lancashire. Fully equipped self-catering chalets. Restaurant facilities available at moderate prices. Marvellous entertainment, sport and recreational facilities. Reduced rates: £15 chalet sleeping 4; £20 chalet sleeping 6. Apply: HOLIDAY ORGANISER, THE SPASTICS SOCIETY.

GOODBYE TO THE BATHTUB BLUES

NOT ALL STUDENTS spend their time at sit-ins and demonstrations. A group of young men from Napier Technical College, Edinburgh, have just finished a very different project. The lads, who are plumbing

students, designed a bath specially for the use of handicapped people. They then contacted the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics and asked if there was anywhere they could install a specimen bath.

The council suggested Longstone Occupational Training Centre, where about 30 young adult spastics work at assembling toys and small gadgets.

These young folk, who live at home, find bathing a prob-

blem. Most of them need help, and it isn't easy for them or for members of their families, who have to assist them.

A special bath at the training centre would mean they could take their baths at work.

The bath installed by the Napier students has a cubicle with the latest in hot and cold showers and a grid in the floor. A smooth bench extends outside the cubicle.

The bather sits on the bench, slides himself into the cubicle, draws the curtains, and turns on the taps, which are within easy reach. When he's finished he can turn off the water and slide out.

This means a lot to someone who can't stand in an ordinary shower or climb in and out of a bath-tub.

It just goes to show how even an ordinary everyday trade like plumbing has a special application when it comes to spastics.

Film shows on way

A SOUND projector and screen will be bought from £100 raised at the autumn fair held by Derby and District Spastics Society.

The fair was opened by a spastic, Mr. Paul Eccleston, who is a member of the Society's executive committee and the Derby '62 Club.

As well as the £100 raised, the Mayor of Derby, Ald. Mrs. Edith Wood handed over more than £12, raised at a charity bingo given by Mecca Ltd.

OMISSION

In a story headed "The Hidden Children" in the November issue, the Leicester and District Spastics Society was omitted from the list of those societies which comprise the county organisation.

COUNCIL COMMENT BRINGS 'GROSSLY UNJUST' RETORT

"GROSSLY UNJUST" comments by the chairman of the Wiltshire County Council's Health Committee have brought a strong protest from The Spastics Society.

Ald. Mrs. Doreen King, announcing cuts in the council's ambulance service for conveying spastics to a special centre at Bath (it cost £20,000) for attendance and treatment it had "made no provision for transporting children there, but relied on the county council."

The Society's Head of Information, Miss June Sampson, referring to Ald. Mrs. King's "extraordinary statements," said: "I would like to remind Mrs. King that in fact it was the County Council who relied on us to supply a local service which it was basically their responsibility to provide."

Low priority

"We undertook to fill the gap in local provisions only because it was needed so urgently and to ease the strain on local government funds."

"It is grossly unjust that, having relieved the Council of the burden of providing a centre, the Health Committee, should then even try to evade the responsibility of providing transport—first by threatening to withdraw the service altogether, and then by stating that they would only continue it on a local basis."

"The attitude of Mrs. King is yet another example of the very low priority placed on the handicapped by some local authorities."

Jacques Hall project aid

The Clacton Group have been so impressed with the work done at Jacques Hall, the Society's centre at Bradfield, Essex, that they have made a special donation.

They have given the centre £50 so that they can go ahead with their project of converting the old coach house into a recreation centre.

COACH MISHAP

A car which did not stop forced a coach carrying 17 spastics into a ditch in Broad Lane, Wivenhoe. The passengers and the driver of the coach were unhurt.



Stephanie Voss chooses some last-minute cards, helped by (right) Mr. Kellett and Mr. G. Payne, of Spastics Cards.

Lucky thirteenth . . .

Show business people are notoriously superstitious but actress Stephanie Voss had no qualms about travelling on Friday the 13th — she chose that day in December for her visit to Spastics Cards at Iver.

Stephanie, who is starring with Harry Secombe in "The Four Musketeers" at Drury Lane Theatre, is an active worker for the Stars Organisation for Spastics and wanted to visit the factory to see wrapping and dispatching work in full swing.

Society Director Mr. James Loring accompanied her, with Mr. John Price, Assistant Director (Finance) of the Society and director of Spastics Cards, and Mrs. Sheila Rawstone, secretary of the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

Mr. John Kellett, managing director of Spastics Cards, presented Stephanie with a brooch made by Spastics and Stephanie took the opportunity of buying some last-minute Christmas cards.

'L' spastic's licence is restored

A BRIGHTLINGSEA teacher who is a lightly-handicapped spastic, has won her appeal to Colchester magistrates against the revoking of her learner's driving licence.

The teacher, Miss Jennifer Scott, had twice failed her driving test and Essex County Council revoked her provisional licence on the advice of an examiner, Mr. T. Beer.

Mr. Beer told the court that he failed Miss Scott on her second test because he thought her reflex actions were not good enough and her steering was erratic. He considered she would perhaps only be able to drive an invalid carriage.

Dr. F. Lees, a consultant neurologist, said he carried out

tests on Miss Scott and thought her capable of driving a car safely.

The magistrates restored the provisional licence on condition that she drove a car with an automatic gearbox and with an engine capacity of up to 1,000 c.c.

From the frozen north

The Cape Wrath angling club in the extreme north of Scotland, has donated £32 for the Scottish Spastics Appeal Fund.



Voluntary helpers of the Midland Spastic Association, Parents' Group, each gave three full days a week manning this exhibition and sale of Spastic Cards at the Midland Spastic Association Centre in Harborne.

HANDICAPPED CHILDREN'S ART PRAISED

A study of paintings by children who are regarded as educationally subnormal might lead to a new and more realistic conception of what I.Q. really is, said Sir Thomas Monnington, President of the Royal Academy, in London.

Sir Thomas was addressing the 80th annual general meeting of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, presided over by Princess Margaret at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn. The theme of

the meeting was "Art and the Handicapped Child."

Sir Thomas said that in judging paintings at the Association's two exhibitions of art by handicapped children, he had been particularly puzzled by the achievement of the "educationally sub-normal" children. It was their paintings which seemed to be characterised by the greatest imagination, sensitivity and vision.

"Some seem to have a super-sensitivity, which suggests

that there are certain sorts of judgment which lie outside the ordinary process of reasoned thought," he said.

"I just wonder if research into the relationship of sensitivity and intelligence, perhaps through the work of these children, might not lead to a new and more realistic conception of what I.Q. really is."

Sir Thomas said that on both occasions the work seemed better and more interesting than the average school work

he saw. Nearly all the paintings had a strong independent quality, making them more individual and therefore more charming than most children's art.

Meeting the child artists themselves had been one of those experiences which create a new sense of value and judgment.

"I was shocked and humiliated by the courage of the afflicted as I was impressed by the kindness and understanding of those who worked for them," he said.

Scottish community effort raises biggest donation

THE LARGEST single donation—£9,000—ever made to the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics as the result of a community effort has been handed over.

FIRST LADY AT THE ROUND TABLE . . .

When a cheque for £500 was presented to the Monmouthshire Spastics Society by Pontypool Round Table, the chairman of the Society, Mrs. C. E. Williams, became the first woman ever to be invited to a Round Table dinner.

Mrs. Williams, who received the donation, which was raised at the Table's Donkey Derby in July, said the money would be used for the spastic workshop at Pontrhydyrn where the work turned out was "of top quality."

"Because the workers are spastics, we do not expect anyone who gives us a contract to accept inferior work," she said.

Farewell to Mr. Knight

Mr. F. A. Ridgeon, President of the Cambridge and District Spastics Society, presented a leather bound attache case to Mr. Harry Knight at the Cambridge Group's annual meeting.

Mr. Knight has left the Eastern Region of the Spastics Society to take up an appointment with the Norwich Group.

Better off

The Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics receives £65 from the Tanfield Motor Club, the motoring club of the now defunct Scottish Daily Mail.

BARN DANCE

Local farmers gave cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, kittens, dogs and produce and other goods were donated by local horticulturalists, shopkeepers and industries. Goods for stalls were produced by a number of women's organisations.

In the evening, Mr. John Warnock, who organised the morning sale, allowed his farm buildings at Sandilands to be used for a barn dance. Members of local young farmers' clubs were responsible for parking 700 cars which brought visitors to the events.

Johnny Beattie and The Alexander Brothers attended the fair during the afternoon.

Transport

An ambulance no longer required by the ambulance service has been given by Coventry Health and Welfare Committee to the Coventry and District Spastics Society.

FIRE ESCAPE

In the December issue, the photograph of the fire escape at the Lancaster Training Centre should have been credited to "The Visitor." Morecambe and Heysham, through whose courtesy it was reproduced.

Spastic club takes on 'Venture 1969'

SPASTIC YOUTHS in the Birmingham area were among the first to enter the Lord Mayor of London's challenging youth project, "Venture 1969," in which awards will be made for the most worthwhile work undertaken by young people during the coming year.

They are members of The Helping Hand Youth Club, organised by the Midland Spastic Association, Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"The spirit of service has been a feature of the club since its inception in 1954 and members feel that they do not just want to sit back and allow others to help them but want to do their share of helping other people," said a spokesman for the club.

Between 1966 and the present, members had raised approximately £550, and distributed it a variety of ways, such as donations to the Birmingham Hospital Broadcasts Association, the Midland Spastic Association, the Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs and the Double Zero Club Appeal.

Continuation

"The kind of service which will be carried out for Venture 1969 will be a continuation of the community service which we have done over the past few years and will not be anything of a spectacular nature," said the spokesman.

The first event was a Senior Citizens party. Further projects would include a similar party in the spring with follow-up visits and other forms of work with the elderly. A collection of toys and books would be made for the N.S.P.C.C.

ALL OUT—FOR ONE THOUSAND GUINEAS

At the annual dinner of Roths Amateur Cricket Club held recently at the Victoria Hotel, Nottingham, a cheque for one thousand guineas was presented to Miss Jennifer Lewis (Miss United Kingdom for 1967) who accepted the sum on behalf of Nottingham and District "Friends of Spastics" Group.

Among other events in the area, the International Guild of Magicians presented "An Enchanted Evening" at the Parish Church Hall, Beeston. This resulted in over £40 being raised for Group funds.

The Nottingham Group's Autumn Dance at the Commodore Banqueting Rooms was a complete sell-out. About 50 adult spastic members of the Group were invited to attend.

Boots Amateur Dramatic Society presented the comedy play "Miranda" at the Co-operative Arts Theatre, Nottingham. Adult members of the Group were at the show, the proceeds of which were donated to Group funds.

WIDE VARIETY OF COURSES SET FOR CASTLE PRIORY

The Spastics Society has arranged a full and interesting programme of courses during 1969 at Castle Priory College, Wallingford.



Mr. Dan Welch of Hednesford (Staffs), pays 12s. a week into the Spastics Pools. Although unmarried because he has to look after a disabled sister, he loves children and thinks the Pool is one way he can help.

Now Mr. Welch has won £1,097 — a first dividend — on Regional Pools Promotions' weekly competition.

The cheque was presented by Wolverhampton Wanderers captain Mike Bailey.

that the college is fully occupied.

January 27-30: THE HANDICAPPED CHILD IN CARE: For child care officers and other staff in children's departments of local authorities and voluntary societies dealing with care and placement of handicapped children.

February 3-6: PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOR THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED: For teachers and physiotherapists.

February 7-9: THE MINIMALLY HANDICAPPED CHILD IN SCHOOL: For teachers of remedial classes, those in E.S.N. schools and in schools for maladjusted children.

February 10-13: SEX EDUCATION FOR THE HANDICAPPED: This problem, involving teachers, therapists and care staff, will be discussed in relation to introducing children to the elementary facts and in supporting teenagers through critical periods of development. An eminent adviser in health education will lead

What publicity can do

MR. J. E. WETTON, of Holmwyne, Stafford Road, Huntington, Cannock, who sent in the story about Mr. Welch, also said: "I am the local supervisor of the Pool and collect in from 6,000 members each week. Any publicity always brings in more members, which means more twopences into the funds. The week following this presentation I had 29 new members off one estate alone..."

Crossword puzzle . . .

There were no correct entries for last month's crossword contest, this being no doubt due to typographical errors in the order of clues.

For this reason the prize money will be carried forward and added to that of the next contest, which will appear in the February edition.

Answers to last month's puzzle were: Cryptic: Across: 5 Doubt; 8 Alarming; 9 Piece; 10 Dressage; 11 Pills; 14 Eye; 16 Viable; 17 Bleary; 18 Lob; 20 Steam; 24 Attitude; 25 Anvil; 26 Aspirate; 27 Other. Down: 1 Hands; 2 Raven; 3 Amuse; 4 Snugly; 6 Oxidised; 7 Bucklers; 12 Distinct; 13 Abrasive; 14 Eel; 15 Ebb; 19 Obtuse; 21 Livid; 22 Ducal; 23 Bevel. Easy: Across: 5 Stack; 8 Pleasure; 9 Walls; 10 Readable; 11 Speed; 14 Use; 16 Confer; 17 Vanity; 18 Nee; 20 Sties; 24 Portrait; 25 Birth; 26 Agreeing; 27 Bends. Down: 1 Apart; 2 Medal; 3 Asian; 4 Gills; 6 Trapping; 7 Collects; 12 Contrite; 13 Affected; 14 Urn; 15 Eve; 19 Enough; 21 Steep; 22 Panic; 23 Stage.

SPYDER spins web to trap Spastics Week helpers

SPYDER—No, its no relation to SMERSH or any other of the enemies of James Bond. In fact, it's the new name of the Right Now Committee of young Londoners, which helps the Society to raise funds.

Say newly-elected joint chairmen, Sue Jackson and Gail Wills: "We are hoping to trap many more helpers in our web." And judging by

the number of pretty girls on the committee this will be no great problem.

SPYDER members recently held a party at Park Crescent to which they invited the London '62 Club. Nearly 100 people packed into the Committee Room for an evening of wine, cheese, music and good conversation.

A particularly welcome guest

was Dr. Khatibi from Persia who remarked on the way in which handicaps can quickly be forgotten in a convivial atmosphere. Dr. Khatibi had been staying with '62 Club president Bill Hargreaves.

The next SPYDER fund-raising project will be a giant Valentine's Eve "thrash" at London's Lyceum Ballroom, after which the members will be



PRIORITY

the discussions.

February 14-16: ORFF-SCHULWERK AND THE HANDICAPPED CHILD: A weekend course on the application of Carl Orff principles of music-making to the needs of the handicapped child.

February 21-23: THE PLAY THERAPIST AND THE HANDICAPPED CHILD: Background lectures for staff concerned with formal and informal play activities for children unable to participate in natural play situations.

March 6-9: THE SPASTIC IN THE JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE & SPECIAL CARE UNIT: For supervisors, hostel wardens or other qualified staff in centres for the mentally sub-normal child.

March 17-20: TEACHERS' WORKSHOP (BASIC SUBJECTS): For the practical assistance of those teaching handicapped children, covering methods and materials and giving opportunity for exchange of ideas.

March 24-27: ADAPTING CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE USE OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN: To be held at Colwell Court, Bexhill-on-Sea.

April 28-May 23: CARE OF THE ADULT HANDICAPPED.

Further details of these and later courses may be obtained from the Principal.

A famous evening at Croydon Conservative Club, when members gave gifts to be auctioned for spastics and another charity, and raised over £500.

And there were some famous faces there . . . like (left to right) actress Hy Hazell, ex-Arsenal player Ted Drake, cricketer Alec Bedser, Joyce Gardner, the women's billiards star who was the auctioneer, and (front) Leslie Sarony and Sonny Farrer, music hall entertainers and song-writers.

(Photo, courtesy Croydon Advertiser).

Almost a record

A bazaar, held by Bedford and District Branch of the Spastics Society, raised £1,700 for the local spastics centre—almost a record, says organiser Mrs. Margery Ford.

A smile and a cuppa . . .

Two small collecting boxes in the Lantern Cafe, Parkstone, Poole, have yielded over £200 for the Society in five years—£74 10s. of it during the past year.

Area Collector, Mr. George Unwin, said he thought that this was a record for the South of England. The cafe was a small one.

"The highest possible praise is due to Mrs. Courtney, the owner, and "Jock" who serves behind the counter. There is always a smile and a hot cup of coffee for the collector every time he calls, as well as two full boxes."

£4,000 S.O.S. ball helps new London home off ground

WELL OVER £4,000 was raised at the fourteenth anniversary ball of the Stars Organisation for Spastics held at Grosvenor House—and more than £2,000 came from the tombola with which the evening opened.

The tombola, organised by Vera Lynn and other S.O.S. ladies, had attracted a large number of prizes. A raffle for a Vauxhall Viva car, with a limit of 60 tickets at £12 10s each was so successful that a further raffle was held under similar conditions—this time with a cash prize of £500. In each case the profit was £250.

Guests dined by candlelight and danced to music played by Johnny Howard and the Cyril Stapleton Orchestras.

PROBLEM

The midnight cabaret, introduced by S.O.S. chairman Leslie Crowther, featured The Wychwoods, Jack Howarth, Mike Yarwood and The Trio Athenee. Mr. Crowther also took the opportunity to tell the 1,000 people present that part of the money raised would be used towards setting up a new S.O.S. home for spastics in Camberwell.

The new home, for which £50,000 will have to be raised in under two years, will house 25 London spastics in their "home town" and will also enable others to spend a holiday there. Southwark Council have made a site available at Camberwell Green.

Jean and Leslie Crowther talking with racing driver Graham Hill at the ball.

WESTBURY MAKE COFFEE CASH

Westbury Sub-Committee of Bath and District Spastics' Society held a coffee morning at Ivy House, Church Street, Westbury, the home of Mrs. Kathleen Cooke, and raised £16.

Full house

The fourth house at Meldreth Training School is due to open this month. When its children move in, the school will be well on its way to its complement of 120.

'It is only when laughter is heard that our buildings come to life'

Demands — and 'Supplies'

IF SAMUEL PEPYS
were to occupy
my chair today, he
would probably not
be too much at a loss
to know what to do.
For Mr. Pepys was to
the Navy of King
Charles what the
Supplies Office of to-
day is to the Spastics
Society.

He would probably sym-
pathise, too, in his gentle-
manly way, with the
problems which are the
keyword in this department,
as in most others in the

the wardrobes are but hollow
shells.

Then the first occupants
arrive, speaking in low voices,
diffident, nervous. It is only
when the first shouts are heard,
when laughter echoes, that
your building comes to life. It
is an experience one never for-
gets.

There is little else to rom-
antic about pots and pans,
beds, sheets, chairs, tables,
filing cabinets? Three-piece
suites, floor cleaners, type-

ought to add a typewriter, a
table for the typewriter to
stand on, and a typist's chair.

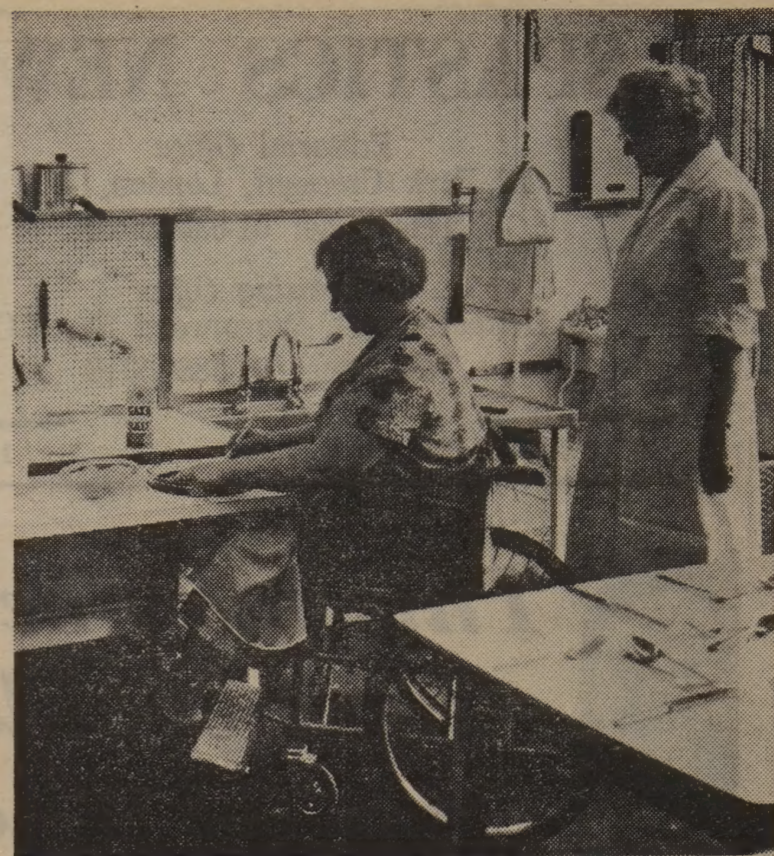
Visitors will arrive and will
have to be seated, and probably
you ought to have an ashtray.
A telephone will be installed
under the main contract but
you may need a telephone
table.

When all the rooms have
been listed, from the smallest
room in the house to the big-
gest, from dining tables to dus-
ters, you finish up with an
amazing variety of needs. Then
begins a process of "variety re-
duction" dictated by a number
of often conflicting "musts".
Colours come into it, design of
course, comfort is essential but
so, too, is hygiene, ease of
cleaning and easy communica-
tion, and lots more.

to give information and price
comparisons to those in charge
of our own schools and centres.
This publication of one or two
pages, saved money, and this
factor alone extended our cir-
culation to local groups.

Then the Cheshire Founda-
tion Homes asked for copies—
now the Foundation takes 100
copies of our Supply Notes
each month which they distri-
bute to each of their Homes—
and at this date Supply Notes
reach hundreds of people
whose job it is to supply all
types of equipment chiefly for
the use of the handicapped.

It is a two-way service, for
each issue yields letters and
telephone calls on some new
need and thus stimulates a
fresh approach to a hitherto
frustrating problem. If you
have a problem and you think
we can help, please write to
me.



One of the handicapped at work
in the kitchen.

By M. A. MITCHELL
The Society's Supplies Officer

Society's complex organ-
isation.

A letter from a parent won-
dering which is the best type-
writer for her handicapped
daughter (it's usually mothers
who write); an appeal from a
local group, with money-rais-
ing whist drives in mind, who
are seeking the cheapest stack-
ing chair; one of the Society's
projects finishing before time,
requiring furniture on order to
be hastened; more often a new
centre, held up by floods or
frost, needs delayed delivery of
equipment; and so it goes on—
day after day—and never a
dull moment...

Leapfrog

Problems! Think of a pipe-
line. In it are all the Society's
new projects just now—two
work centres; an "independ-
ence" unit; a bigger laundry
for an establishment now bulg-
ing at the seams; a projected
Family Help Unit; a Day Centre;
extensions to two Work
Centres; a Residential Hostel;
a new Children's Day Centre in
association with a hospital—
and I am only on the second
page of the Society's Novem-
ber progress report (with three
more pages to go).

All these projects juggle
each other in the pipeline,
some leapfrogging their way
ahead, some slowing down. But
all of them require attention,
for all are important.

Missing

A plan makes dull reading
but interest grows when the
walls go up and the roof begins
to blot out the sun and the
rain. But even when the cur-
tains are hanging and the furni-
ture goes in, something is
missing.

Easy chairs stand regimen-
ted like soldiers on parade;
and in neat-and-tidy bedrooms,

writers, lavatory brushes?
Specifications? Orders in quad-
uplicate? Delivery notes? In-
voices to be paid?

Yet all are an essential, if
humdrum, part of the final pro-
duct. And all becomes worth-
while when a building comes to
life.

Your chairs are scattered,
the wardrobes won't close—
but it doesn't matter. The
house is now a home. It's lived-
in.

Mr. Pepys

We do not usually attend
opening ceremonies. When that
time comes around we are
usually busy on something else
emerging from the pipeline.
But it is usually at opening
ceremonies that one is asked
the question "How do you
equip a project?" A simple
question, but a tedious answer,
and one usually dodges the
issue.

You start with a brief which
explains what the project is
designed to do, how many are
going to live or work on the
site and so on. Later on a plan
is produced and you begin to
"commission," (a word known
to Mr. Pepys).

Each room is a building—
whatever the final use—is de-
signed to achieve a certain
purpose. This implies good plan-
ning (by the architects), a high
standard of building and finish,
and finally the most appropri-
ate equipment and furnish-
ings.

So you sit down with the
plan and, room by room, list
everything that has to be added
within the four walls and the
ceiling.

The items

If you think for a moment
of an office you will see what
I mean. You need a desk and
a chair and a wastepaper bin.
A filing cabinet? Yes, and we

Tightrope

Quality? Yes! But here we
begin to walk on a tight-rope.
Your furnishings must not
look too opulent (whatever the
cost) for we are a charitable
organisation, and like the good
housewife we count the pen-
nies! Yet the quality must be
beyond reproach. Hence my
phrase, "walking a tight-rope"
— keeping an even balance
between the extravagant and
avoiding the cheap and nasty.

Fortunately The Spastics
Society has many good friends
in the trade. The adage, "busi-
ness is business" may pre-
vail, but we can usually
buy on contract rates
whatever the quantity involved.
Over the years, largely as a
result of our being meticulous
in paying bills promptly, we
have acquired hundreds of
trading contracts and, although
there is little sentiment about
business, quite a considerable
good will.

Just this knowledge of
where to buy, acquired in
equipping 39 projects over the
last three years, and in answer-
ing inquiries, and requests for
the most suitable equipment,
from hundreds of would-be
customers, has led to the intro-
duction of Supply Notes, now
quite a feature of the Society's
activity.

It started off most modestly

**PHYSICALLY HANDI-
CAPPED** people in
Mansfield have a fine day
centre which was the result
of unusually close co-opera-
tion between the local
authority and different vol-
untary bodies.

A co-ordinating committee
was set up some years ago
which represented various
local organisations for the
handicapped and those inter-
ested in helping them. These
included the Mansfield and
District Friends of Spastics
Group.

In 1953, the committee en-
listed the help of the Notting-
hamshire County Council in
providing a centre where dif-
ferent services for the handi-
capped could be combined.

The local authority provided
the money for a purpose-
designed building in the centre
of Mansfield and the voluntary
bodies paid £4,000 of the £7,000
equipment costs. It was offici-
ally opened in 1961.

PROBLEMS

The centre provides occupa-
tional work from ten o'clock to
five every Monday to Friday
and is open for social activities
until nine in the evening and
all day Saturday. There are
usually about 140 people doing
occupational tasks at any one
time, but owing to transport
problems, some members can
attend only once or twice a
week.

ALL MANNER OF HANDICAPS AT THIS CENTRE

Anne Plummer at Mansfield

Members include the blind,
deaf and epileptics, as well as
people affected by arthritis,
multiple sclerosis, road in-
juries, polio, cerebral palsy
and other motor disorders.
Ages range from 16 to 86. The
spastics who attend are usually
among the younger members,
waiting to be placed after
leaving school.

A focal point of the centre
is the large Assembly Hall
which has special amplifiers
for the deaf and a well-
equipped stage where members
can organise concerts and
plays. In the daytime the hall
is a hive of activity, where
members assemble nuts and
bolts, pack perfume and make
baskets.

The woodwork room, equip-
ped by the Friends of Spastics
Group, turns out lamp bases,
plant-pot holders and sturdy
wooden toys. There is a pot-
tery and a printing shop, and
homeworkers are also supplied
from the centre.

Money received from the
firms who provide sub-contract
work and from the sale of
finished products is handed
straight to the workers who

are paid on a piece-work basis.

Social facilities at the centre
include a games room with
billiards and ping-pong tables
at the right height for wheel-
chair players, and a pleasant
library. This provides Braille
publications and books with
extra large print, as well as
the usual literature supplied
by the County Library Service.

Members can take baths at
the centre, using hoists and
pulleys specially designed for
the disabled. They can have
their hair done at reasonable
prices or leave their children
to play in the care of volun-
tary staff. They can also try
out various aids and gadgets
for the handicapped before
deciding which would be most
useful to have on loan in their
own homes.

Disabled housewives also
have a chance to try out
equipment in the centre's kit-
chen which provides hot drinks
and snacks throughout the day.
This canteen is run by volun-
tary helpers and pays for itself.

GOODWILL

Of the yearly running costs
£500 comes from voluntary
contributions. The centre has
attracted a tremendous amount
of local interest and the dif-
ferent organisations involved
vie with each other to see who
can raise the most money. The
annual Spring Fair in aid of
the centre is always very well
supported and this spirit of
goodwill continues throughout
the year.

Mrs. Haywood, the General
Organiser, gave various exam-
ples of this. The firm which
made the centre's two ambu-
lances, for instance, refused to
take any profit when they heard
that the Friends of the Centre
were paying.

Mrs. Haywood also spoke of
the "wonderful spirit" among
the handicapped people them-
selves. Despite a 70-year age
range and a wide diversity of
handicaps, the members seem
to mix quite well.

Mrs. Haywood said that she
felt it was good for people,
downcast at becoming handi-
capped late in life, to meet
spastics and other congenitally
disabled people.

It gave them an opportunity
to think: "At least I've had
some life as an able-bodied
person."

S.K.

HOW TO TACKLE THAT RED TAPE

ALTHOUGH everyone knows that equipment, aids and home adap-
tations are available from various local authorities, often people are
a bit vague about which department provides what, and which tangle
of red tape to tackle first.

The Society's Adviser on Services has prepared a booklet on
"Information on Equipment for the Physically Handicapped." It is
very helpful, explaining what facilities are available, who is eligible to
receive them, and whether and how to get them.

It is available, free of charge, from: The Adviser on Services,
Family Services and Assessment Centre, 16 Fitzroy Square, London,
W.1P 5HQ.

Those fabulous free offers!

O.K. IT ISN'T NEW, but I
didn't realise until recently
that protective clothing
(waterproof pants, etc.) pads
and disposable draw sheets
are available FREE from
most local health authorities.
This provision is made as part
of their powers under the
N.H.S. Act of 1946 to make
arrangements for "care and
after-care of persons..." It
is not only made to people
receiving home nursing care,
but was commended by the
Ministry of Health to be pro-
vided to all people who can
benefit from it.

Health authorities find that
quite apart from the benefit
by patients and those looking
after them, the incontinence
pads are convenient and
time-saving for nurses, re-
duce the laundering of soiled
bed-linen which is especially
difficult in winter months for
drying, and make it possible
to keep at home some
patients who would otherwise
have to be admitted to hospi-
tals.

sometimes provided into
which the soiled pads have to
be packed for removal.

An increasingly large number
of local health authorities
provide free laundry services
for people handicapped by
incontinence.
Most authorities deliver and
collect such laundry, i.e.
soiled bed-linen and personal
clothing about twice a week,
and usually the laundering is
done at local hospital laun-
dries.
Requests for these services,
usually come from general
practitioners, district nurses,
health visitors, social work-
ers, etc., and should be made
to the authority's Medical
Officer of Health—or there
can be a personal approach
by the patient or his family
to the home nursing depart-
ment which usually arranges
for a district nurse to call
and advise on special facili-
ties.

Each health authority (usually
through its home nursing
section) makes its own
arrangements for the regular
supply of these items, and in
view of their bulk and
nature, their collection or
disposal is often arranged
(in the interests of public
health) via the refuse dis-
posal department, and special
large disposable bags are

provided into
which the soiled pads have to
be packed for removal.

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SPASTICS NEWS

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JANUARY

1969



*This may be our
next problem
says The Director*

ONE OF THE MOST guilt-producing questions the Society is asked is: "What will happen to a spastic boy or girl, or man or woman, after they have left one of the Society's schools, or when a residential centre is no longer able to cope with them?"

It is guilt-producing because the Society, in a small way, is not unlike the Christian Church, in that it feels a responsibility for all its children.

It would like to have as its motto: "Ask and you shall receive"—to give to any spastic who asks for help just that help which is required. But this is a far-from-perfect world. The main justification for the Society's existence is that it presents the case of the handicapped forcibly to the public, and tries as best it can to fill the gaps in Government provision.

The total problem is too vast for any voluntary organisation. The Society is doomed, so to speak, to be able only to make limited provision, to select from a great catalogue of needs, and inevitably many will be left unsatisfied.

No elite of spastics

There is, too, the basic question, one almost of philosophy: "Should the Society try to provide a 'cradle to the grave' service for a limited number of spastics, or spread the same amount of help over a greater field?"

I think that in the nature of things, the Society must tend to favour the latter course. It would be wrong to create an elite of spastics—a small number who would progress through the Society's nursery units, to its schools, to its further education establishments and then to its centres. Its primary aims must be to equip as many as possible for life of some sort in the community and help as large a number of spastics as is practicable.

At the beginning, the Society set out to help spastic children of more or less average intelligence, and it achieved great success. Not only did it provide services, but by its own example and by bringing pressure to bear, it persuaded other agencies to enter the field. I think it is true to say that this particular problem is almost solved.

More recently, the Society has moved into the field of mentally handicapped spastics. This is a more difficult area by far, and the current economic squeeze will almost certainly delay its solution.

Make common cause

If I were asked to forecast the problem which will next present itself, I would say it was that of the elderly spastic. If this proves to be the case, will we not then have reached a point where the spastic's problems are similar to those of us who are not handicapped?

For sooner or later those of us who do not die young or in middle age will have to be cared for.

Perhaps, then, it would be in the interests of spastics and non-spastics alike to make common cause with other organisations to keep alive the pressure for very much higher standards of care in all long-stay hospitals, whether for the sub-normal or for the elderly.

With as much success in this campaign as the Society has achieved in many other fields, the problem of the elderly spastic could well be one which the Society need never fear to face in the way that it has had to confront other difficulties.

The New Year is born

A cry is heard at midnight—
Just a few hours before the dawn.
Just before the sunlight—
The New Year is born.

The child so different from others;
It may become handicapped by sin—
Like all his older brothers;
Yet, in his life Happiness might begin.

He is so young and tender;
Innocent is the babe.
Am I a big pretender?
Or to Peace just a slave?

The New Year is born.
In his hand, what does he hold?
One day I will have to mourn
Because within a year his body will be cold.

ROBERT BURNS FINDLAY
Thomas Delarue School

My word! How that 'cat' could go!

IT WAS DURING June when Bill Hargreaves phoned us up. Did we know that another spastic was living in the same road? "Mind you, he sounds a bit mad," said Bill.

We said we were not surprised, as we seem to be falling over spastics in a lot of queer places, and our road is no queerer than some, but anyway why the madness? we asked.

"Well" says Bill, "he is keen on sailing, gets wet each weekend, says he likes it, must be mad."

We thought it would be a good idea to get in touch with this damp spastic, whose name turned out to be Roger Holt, since we seemed to enjoy getting wet in the same way.

A foot wrong

Roger, we found, is a member of the Chapman Sands Sailing Club on Canvey Island.

Most of the boats in this club are catamarans — clumsy great contraptions, I always thought them, until Roger and I went out for a sail in "Fandango" a Swift class cat owned by Roger.

My views on cats underwent an abrupt change.

All my sailing until then had been done in sailing dinghies one of which I own. You have only to put a big foot wrong in a dinghy, and over she goes!

The first thing about a cat is that you can almost do a waltz on its deck and nothing happens. Then there is the speed of the thing — it just gets the wind in the sails and goes. My word, how she goes!

However, a big snag with a cat is that you get very, very wet! On my first sail with Roger my hearing aid got wet and blew up with a dull boom! In fact every time I go

LOG OF A LARK

By PETER WEAVER
London '62 Club

sailing in "Fandango" I get a lot of very queer noises coming from a very wet hearing aid.

Some doubts

It was after a day's sailing, when we had just finished eating one of Marianne's dinners, that Roger mentioned that he was thinking of crossing the Channel. "Oh, yes," said Marianne, "by the new Hovercraft, I suppose?"

"No—by cat," said Roger very shortly, "and what's more I shall need your hubby for crew."

Things started to happen very quickly after this. First we had to go to Southampton to see a sailmaker about new sails, then to Dover to see the Yacht Club there; to Putney for fittings for the cat; and to Dover again to see the Harbour authorities who seemed to have it fixed in their minds that our cat is only a few feet shorter than the Queen Mary and about the same width; and to have doubts about the harbour entrance being big enough.

Rolling

It was about this time that Mr. Hargreaves got wind of what was going on, and that did it! "What are you doing it for? What about publicity? Why haven't you got in touch with So-&-so? What about B.B.C.? I.T.V.? Chichester? Prince Philip? etc. etc. Oh well, don't worry. Leave that end of it to me, I will start the ball rolling," said Bill.

He did that all right, but then his holidays became due, and for three weeks no-one really knew where the ball was, even though it was certainly rolling.

In the midst of all this, Mari-

anne got wild and said, "Look here, this Channel trip is all very well but I think it would be a good idea to take the cat out for a very long sail just to see how you get on."

This seemed a good idea. Next weekend, Roger and I decided to sail from Canvey Island to Whitstable in Kent in company with Ron and his son Pete, members of the Chapman Sands S.C. They were sailing their cat over to spend a week's holiday racing it against another club's boats at Whitstable.

Walking gulls

Saturday morning dawned with a slight mist promising a hot day. It was. Only one thing wrong — no wind!

We got out on the sea and just sat and sat. "Only one thing to do," said Roger, "that's whistle."

I think we rather overdid it. The wind slowly got stronger and took us over to Kent in fine style in the afternoon.

By Sunday seagulls were almost having to walk! Ron and Pete we found standing on the beach looking at white-topped waves and saying to each other; "Well, I think they will cancel racing today," in hopeful voices.

Roger and I looked at each other and then at the sea. I said: "Er... bit windy isn't it?" Roger said: "Yes it is a bit." Dead silence for a few minutes. "Well we have to get home," said Roger, still looking at the waves. "Yes," I said, "Well, there's always British Railways," said Ron. Five minutes later we were afloat. They said afterwards we went out of sight over the

horizon like an M.T.B. going flat out.

Apart from some very large waves, the only thing we saw on our way across to Canvey was a very small motor boat with two chaps fishing from it. We went past in a cloud of spray, the two men staring after us with mouths wide open.

After this we thought the Channel trip could not hold many secrets for us.

The next thing in the train of events was that someone at work said to me: "Oy! the manager wants to see you in his office at once." "Oh, lord! Now what the heck have I done," I thought.

The Old Man looked at me a bit queerly when I reached the office. "Get your coat on and report to Thames TV studios," "Right," I said, "what job is this on then?"

"Job? It's not a job. They want you on the blasted programme" he said. "When you come back you might let me know what is going on. Some thing about you swimming the channel, they told me on the phone!"

All ready

I then spent one of the most uncomfortable hours I have ever had in my life. A TV camera in my left ear, another in front of my nose, a mike waving about over my head and lights, lights and still more lights, all over the place. All this was a little unnerving to say the least. However, it did not seem too bad when it was on the television that evening.

Meanwhile, from THE SEA OF TO

WE WISH TO MAKE a protest through the columns of "Spastics News" against the propaganda which is issued by the Society in the form of collecting boxes, leaflets and lastly, but by no means least, by articles and photographs in "Spastics News."

These take the form, particularly on collecting boxes and in leaflets, of helpless and sometimes slightly grotesque children, and the accent is always on helplessness.

This is by no means always true, as there are quite a large number of adult and mature spastics, sometimes in Centres, who are only slightly below full employment level, (sometimes on account of a secondary physical disability), and who are responsible enough to take on tasks on these Centres.

There are even couples, like ourselves, who could take on the responsibilities of marriage, were it not for circumstances quite outside their disabilities or the realm of the Society. We feel that these facts should be the essence of the Society's propaganda.

We ourselves, in the past, have done quite responsible jobs, such as house-fathering, full-time washing up, looking after other residents at night, and so forth.

These jobs have been caused by certain circumstances

LETTERS

For each letter from a spastic, 10s. 6d. will be paid.

largely to die out, even here at Drummonds, although in our opinion, we can claim to have one of the best administrations in the Society. One of us was at Prested Hall from the very first day it was opened, and have trodden the very uphill path of the early days, when the Old Sweats helped to make the Society what it is today.

Are we now thrown overboard into the sea of total care and attention, and to be sucked under by a large percentage of heavily disabled and sometimes immature spastics? Or will we have to swim to another shore, and fend for ourselves in the outside world?

This, it would seem to us present, unless the Society recognises our claims, would be the only alternative.

JUDITH WARREN
ERNEST BARNES
Drummonds,
Feering,
Essex.

As far as "Spastics News" concerned, nothing could further from the truth than

10th NOV 1968
Dear Sir
Here is some money for
The spastics. I collected
it by Drawing some
pictures and making some
pastries to sell at our
Bonfire party. I hope it
will be useful to help a
child that is not so Lucky as
I am.

x Yours sincerely

Dinah Rousell 6½ Years old

"Garlands"
171 West Coker Road,
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ITH WARREN
NEST BARNES

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Roger (left) and Peter under way.

The next Friday we went down to Dover ready to start across the Channel on Saturday morning.

We found everything ready. The Navy had loaned a motor fishing boat with its crew, who looked as though they could take on a battleship without much trouble, and the Cinque Ports Yacht Club loaned a very expensive-looking launch. Ron and a friend brought his cat down and intended to sail across with us.

At dawn on Saturday, just as we were getting our sailing clothes on, the coxswain of the Dover Lifeboat came along and said he did not like the look of the weather and suggested that we waited until Sunday. Then it started to rain. It rained and rained and rained; the wind got stronger and stronger, and by Saturday night the seagulls were walking again.

Compass point

On Sunday it was raining even harder and blowing more than ever. We asked the Navy to see what it was like outside the harbour. When they came back, what they

said about the weather was unprintable!

About midday we held a meeting, and decided that we would have to postpone the whole thing until conditions were a good deal better.

As Ron lives on Canvey Island I said that I would give him a lift home through the Dartford Tunnel.

Well, six hours later we were not even in London. Floods were everywhere. At one point, we had to use the ship's compass in the car to find out if we were going away from or towards London.

Poor Ron found Canvey almost all under water and had to take his shoes and socks off and paddle about a mile to get home. We got home all right — after nearly eight hours on the road.

Roger and I thought after this that we would have to give it up for this year at least, as all available money had been used on hotel fees and meals. Then about a week after, my firm, Remploy, said they would foot part of the bill for another attempt.

So it was all on again.
NEXT MONTH: 'Saved from the Goodwin Sands ...'

A LONG ROAD FROM THE SAUSAGE FACTORY ...

SHE DESTROYS at one glance the popular image of what the editor of a highest-selling fashion and beauty magazine should look like at her desk. Sleek? Svelte? Unruffled? Superbly groomed? These are feathers strictly for other birds.

In fact, she tends towards a chipper, workaday disarray in simple home-made outfits. And though her husband sweeps off to business in a cloud of after-shave, Hazel Evans is more likely to give the Chanel the go-by in favour of a hearty breakfast and a quick whip road with a duster.

She is no Jenny-Come-Lately genius, either — she has come up the hard way, under her own steam. And steam is right ... She is a power-house, but a power-house who knows how to turn off the pressure.

Relaxed, she has a friendly fireside manner, cosy enough to give credence to a mid-summer commercial for hot chocolate. When the power goes on she is frantically disorganised at any given moment, attracting disaster after disaster. Yet the hours seem magically to coalesce into efficient, well-used office days.

On the ground

In between, she tends husband and children in half of a pretentious Victorian house in Reigate, commuting by train to cram in a couple of extra hours of work. Dashing home, she cooks a meal, then hares off to night classes in coastal navigation. Yes ... Coastal navigation. (We'll come back to that in a moment, as David Frost says often but does seldom).

At week-ends, in jeans and shapeless woollens, she sets about the same welter of

weekly wash that faces other housewives. In fact, her whole way of life keeps her feet pretty much on the ground, and my! how she laughs when readers write in and ask: "How can you possibly understand about how we women live?"

And when her washing is hung out to dry and other chores are done its "Head for the open sea!" Because

Sailing, not fashion,

Is her private passion ...

Which explains the incongruity between her daily work and her nightly study. (I was not, in fact at all surprised to hear about the coastal navigation bit. Two or three years ago in Morocco, I found her doggedly tackling "How to speak Arabic" while all around were lapping up the good life. She had bought a bolt-hole near



Interesting people

HAZEL EVANS Editor of Vanity Fair by Jack Gowers

Tangiers and wanted the language so that she could haggle for groceries in the street markets).

She is the daughter of an electrical contractor who was a cinema manager at 17 but got the boot when the cinema caught fire, and of an opera singer who gave it up to get married.

She emerged from a rather uncomfortable educational cocoon as a very reluctant shorthand typist. After spells with a too-devout religious publishing house and a travel agency, she went mad about the country scene and got a job in a Wiltshire sausage factory—"on the sausage side, too, until they discovered that I was a trained shorthand typist." She stayed for three years, then went home and got married.

A far cry

Journalism just happened. She had written since she was five, had produced a book at eight; and at 12, with a one-fingered attack on a typewriter, a magazine. But the thought of a career in journalism had never occurred to her.

Until one day, spreading the pages of the "local" on the floor in preparation for the arrival of the decorators, she spotted an advertisement seeking a reporter (male). Despite the obvious difficulties, she checked her way in and got the job. Later, she became a free-lance and, among other things, wrote stories for "Listen With Mother" (BBC).

When she and her husband came back to London, she decided she wanted to specialise in fashion. She went to night school, studied pattern cutting and design. The upshot was a £7-a-week job on a trade magazine, sweeping floors, making tea, helping the art editor, selling advertising space—the lot, and a first class training, too.

From here she went to the Daily Express Syndication Service; on again to Vogue; from Vogue to the assistant editorship of Flair; and from there she became fashion editor of Good Housekeeping.

And that led, four years ago, to the editor's chair at Vanity Fair, with its 123,000 circulation among the secretary-and-young housewife market. A far, far cry from sausage-making in Wiltshire ...

The skirt, she will now tell you, is definitely staying above the knee, because women have at last found a shape and a skirt-length that suits their hectic way of life. Very plain, functional clothes are the thing and fashion is going to stay that way for a very long time.

Time's pauper

But men? They are becoming tremendously self-conscious about clothes, frightfully conceited about their appearance. The most unexpected men are growing sideboards and using after-shave lotion. This is because women are becoming more aggressive in manner and in the clothes they wear.

But fashion for her is just one thing in a life crammed with interests and action, from creating jewellery (one of her designs is a special offer in this month's Vanity Fair) to sailing every week-end. ("We go down when everyone else is laying up").

She paints in oils when she gets a chance; she makes a lot of clothes; she loves cooking—and eats a good deal, too. She is interested in everything and so must dole out her busy life minute by minute.

A perpetual pauper for time, that's Hazel Evans. And that, of course, is one way to be happy though poor ...

The hard sell

FINALLY, here is a story about two budding female tycoons who knocked on the door of a Barnsley housewife. They were offering Christmas stamps for sale at threepence each in aid of spastics.

The housewife bought two, as it was in a good cause, and the little girls went away. Half an hour later they returned.

"Hey-up Missus," they said, "Would you like to buy some more stamps? ... We're having a sale ... They're only a penny each now!"

BITS AND PIECES by The Collector

After the theft, the smiles

LAST MONTH "Spastics News" reported how, while spastic Mr. Tony Ellis was running his regular weekly bingo session for his local society, thieves broke into his home and stole £20.

The money, all but £1, had been raised at similar bingo evenings for the society.

But I have now heard of the happy sequel. After their headmaster, Mr. R. E. A. Lund, told pupils at Heathcoat Secondary School about the theft and challenged them to raise the money in a week, they did just that—and more.

For within the time he allowed them, they brought in a total of £66. To do it they made individual collections, sold artificial flowers, had an "internal flag day", staged a tuckshop and a girls versus boys football match, two record sessions, sponsored cycle rides and walks, and finally, a rugby match.

Money was still rolling in at last reports, and all was to be handed to Mr. Ellis—when the flow had stopped.

* * *

THE CHAIRMAN of the Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society tells a true and amusing story.

At a recent jumble sale, he was asked if he would give a lift home to a lady who had bought an electric fire for 1/-. She was quite prepared to pay 5/- for the privilege, since that is what a taxi would have cost.

"I agreed," says the chairman, Mr. Leslie W. Hide, "and on opening the car door was handed a sixpenny tip too, making 5s. 6d. in all. Not bad for a journey of less than two miles, and another way of raising funds for the Society."

* * *

I ALSO HEAR that the 12 hirsute members of the East Midlands Nest of the Handlebar Club (moustaches are the qualifications) have raised enough money in the past 18 months to buy a specially-fitted 12-seater mini-bus costing about £1,000.

The bus will be used by the Nottingham and District Spastics Society, the Crippled Children's Society and many other groups who may need it.

However, spastics are by no means always on the receiving end. Students belonging to one 'Task Force' were helping to decorate a spastic lady's room. The lady herself was out at the time—selling flags for the Red Cross ...

TOTAL CARE ...

the suggestion that we dwell unduly, either in articles or photographs, on the "helplessness" of spastics. On the contrary, great stress is laid upon their achievements which never cease to astonish us.—Editor.

From 'The Guardian'

"DISABLED PASSENGERS" are too disabled to drive themselves, cannot use public transport, and receive no Government help towards mobility outside the home. To travel anywhere on business or pleasure they must provide vehicles for themselves, adapt them, and pay all motoring expenses and taxes as if they were able-bodied people enjoying the luxury of private motoring.

Perhaps they pay £100 a year in motoring taxes and if they cannot afford this they cannot travel beyond the ends of their streets. Some remission of this tax penalty would help to keep these "disabled passengers" mobile and at work as rehabilitated, independent tax contributors. With no remission, many will be placed virtually

under house arrest and made dependent on the State and a burden to others.

Just before the 1968 Budget debate you were kind enough to publish our letter "Unequal Struggle," drawing attention to the effect on disabled passengers of the increases in motoring taxes and following the Budget many cases of hardship were brought to the attention of the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled. No doubt this extra 5d on petrol will produce more. Nothing was done then. Can something be done now?

The economic situation may be severe enough to prevent the weaker members of society being adequately protected but would the Government allow the weaker members of society to help to protect the economy? Would the Government accept that for every "disabled passenger" they tax off the road they lose £100 and perhaps have to pay out unemployment benefits?

If they agreed to take less they might at least collect something and have to pay out nothing.

PETER LARGE (Hon. Treasurer).

Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled, c/o The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

From the depths of a heart

S.O.S. Chairman Leslie Crowther's appeal letter on behalf of spastics which was sent out to newspapers all over the country has evoked a heart-warming response from a 20-year-old girl.

Signing herself "A Christian Friend," this young lady generously sent a donation of £5 for S.O.S. funds. In an accompanying letter she wrote:—

"Your letter which I read by chance stuck in my mind and I kept thinking of people, especially children, who would not have as good a Christmas as myself and those I know. "Then my grandfather, who was Santa Claus at a local store, told us of a party of spastic children coming to see him.

"As a Christian I know I must help all I can. I hope the enclosed will help to make someone's Christmas a little happier—and I do say this from the very depths of my heart.

"I don't even want the stamps but hope you will find an old-age pensioner or someone who could not afford seals, etc. to give them to."

"May God bless you in your work ..."



The manager of the Chester Centre, and two of the spastics there, were at the Highfield Hotel, Blacon when Mr. Ken Roberts, manager of Chester Football Club pushed over a

pile of pennies for the Spastics Society. Above: Mr. Roberts (rear) with the spastic visitors, Terence Barnett and Charles Wells (foreground), after the push-over.

And so to bed, much restored by dining in such fashion . . .

THE THIRD of the historical (rudely referred to by some as hysterical) evenings was recently held as a fund-raising event at Castle Priory College.

This took place in "an eating house of the Restoration period," when Samuel Pepys was "At Home" to some 60 guests.

As usual, the menu and entertainment were in keeping with the times and the guests, many of whom on this occasion had played their part by dressing in period costume, partook from the following delicacies and beverages.

Nell's Negus and Rosted Chest-nuts.

Muscules in Shele al Hote.

Gose in a Hoge Pote and Nep Vegetables.

Hedgehog Podinge.

Cheses, Oranges and Whyte Wines.

A sip from the Punch Bowle.

Non-stop entertainment continued throughout the meal, and in addition to music and singing, the proceedings were punctuated by reflections on the contemporary social mores of Wallingford, read by the great man himself.

The "Family" tradition of such events was upheld in that Mrs. Judith Webb and Mr. Gordon Harris, who sang for the company, are two regular lecturers of the College, Colin Dearlove who played his guitar for the group of students who led the folk songs, has been a good friend to us on former evenings and is now engaged to one of the houseparents, and a string quartet was provided by the music group of Culham

SONGS FOR SPANISH CHILDREN

Spastic children in hospitals around Bilbao, in Northern Spain, are regularly entertained by two musicians from the British passenger ship Patricia.

Hilary Agromont and Jimmy Clark put on their shows, free of charge, in the 24 hours that it takes the Patricia to turn round on her sailings from Southampton with holiday-makers.

Hilary and Jimmy were recently congratulated on their work for spastics by the British Consul in Bilbao.



The dinner in progress. (Photo by Tom Pedley)

College of Education, with which regular professional links have also been established.

Handbell ringers from Cholsey village completed the list of entertainers.

The staff and students of Castle Priory, suitably attired, prepared and served the meal. The company appeared to enjoy themselves to such an extent that many were loth to adhere to the condition of the invitation "Let not your Lackey fail to escort you home by a quarter before midnight."

Home betimes

However, with a farewell extract from the diary—outlining the events and misdemeanours of the evening with the sound 17th century folk music ringing in their ears, the guests reverted far too soon to 1968, as the electric lights went up, cars drove away, and the helpers, still in their costumes, switched on the dishwasher. . .

DONATION

A donation has been given to The Spastics Society by the Radio Amateur Invalid and Bedfast Club, in memory of Roy Scott, a spastic member of the club who recently died.

He had been at St. Cuthbert's Hospital, Croft, Darlington, for many years. He was taught to read and write when he was over 30, and typed with a stick strapped to his forehead.

Nijmegen marchers to fall in for Meldreth

WHEN R.A.F. Bassingbourn, a Cambridgeshire airfield, closes down next year, its 30 years of association with local life will be commemorated by the provision of a £1,000 workshop at the Society's Meldreth Training School.

To raise the money, airmen on the station have launched their "Canberra Project," taking the name from the aircraft flown by the unit for many years.

Some of the proceeds of a pantomime are to be given to the fund, and on January 11 there will be a sponsored walk — led by the Bassingbourn team which took part in last year's 100-mile Nijmegen March.

The "Canberra Project" walk will be of 22 miles.

Lancaster Centre opens with a big order

AN IMPORTANT order—to make 300 collapsible push-chairs a month—was a surprise item announced at the official opening of the £300,000 Lancaster Spastics Training Centre. Many of the "baby buggies" will go for export.

Opening the centre on behalf of Lord Derby, who was indisposed, the Mayor of Lancaster, Alderman Eric Simpson, said it was almost impossible fully to realise the tremendous achievements which had been accomplished by the Society in a mere 16 years.

"One can truly say that life has been completely changed for young spastic men and women," he said.

Jobs appeal

While a normal life was not possible for them, since the formation of the Society with the loving care and training of dedicated staff and helpers, sufferers from cerebral palsy were enabled to obtain the nearest

possible approach to normal every-day life.

The Mayor made a special appeal to local employers that, when the residents had finished their training, they would at least give some of them an opportunity to prove that they were useful members of the community.

The Chairman of the Spastics Society, Mr. W. A. Burn, said that with good will and continued effort they should be able to do still more to enable young people to go out into the world and to play their part as useful citizens within the limits of their handicaps.

The Director, Mr. James Loring, said that the Society had ploughed into the centre a lot of its treasure. The kind of money that was needed to build a centre of its kind was very hard come-by indeed.

The day of the rich giver to charity was past; the centre had been built with the shillings of people who had given very generously, the ordinary

man-in-the-street who had given of their best.

He spoke of the Society's deep concern for those with severe multiple handicaps and for their care in the community, and said that it would be misleading to think that the Society could shoulder the whole of this burden.

"We have a duty, as our standards of living improve, to devote as much thought as possible and as much money as we can spare to these people," he said. "I think this is not only a Christian duty, but one which one can quite properly undertake if one has the simplest feelings for one's fellow-men."

Pressure

Mr. Loring also referred to the transfer of responsibility for the mentally handicapped to the Department of Education and Science, and said this would not have taken place but for the consistent pressure brought to bear by The Spastics Society and the National Association for Mental Health.

The general manager, Mr. J. Parkinson, also spoke about the work of the Centre.

The blessing was given by the Vicar of Lancaster. A bouquet was presented to the Mayoress by 20-year-old Joan Fawcett, trainee.

The Centre was then opened to visitors for tours of inspection.

Homework sales are trebled

SALES OF GOODS by the Homework Section of the Spastics Society have soared to three times the figure for last year, thanks to determined selling efforts.

Mr. A. Dobson, the Homework Manager told "Spastics News": "The section has exerted maximum selling effort during 1968. Some 31 groups were quick to take advantage of the display facilities offered and personal visits were made to their areas.

"This brought valuable publicity to Groups, as well as assisting their fund-raising activities. And it paid off . . . Sales were pushed up to three times the corresponding figure for the previous year."

Mr. Dobson added: "We can now tackle the long list of home-bound spastics waiting for work. How successfully and quickly the section can deal with this employment problem will depend on buoyant and increasing sales.

"Some groups see this as

their problem and we are grateful for their enthusiastic support. Now, if all groups could become involved, sales would forge ahead and more spastics be employed."

Mr. Dobson said that among the hundreds of Christmas gift shops which were opened throughout the country was one run by a 31-year-old spastic, Robin Shelton.

Robin, a committee member of Peterborough Spastics Society, was offered the free use of the ground floor of Alexandra's Beauty Salon in Westgate, sold cards, jewellery and novelties — and did very well.

TWICE-WON TV PRIZE

A colour television set won in a Round Table competition by the Chairman of Thurrock and District Spastics Association has certainly helped make things rosy for the organisation.

For the chairman, Mr. D. Clark, decided not to keep the set but asked the Tablers to go ahead with another competition.

The result? Another £317 for the Spastics Association was handed to Mr. Clark by the Table chairman, Mr. M. Redfern.

Strike with a heart

Work halted in a Catford coach firm's depot when more than 30 drivers walked out after a dispute with the management over pay.

But despite their action, the drivers still picked up three coachloads of spastic children from a teaching centre, because they "felt it would be wrong to leave them stranded."

Michael finds gold on smugglers' way

Michael Chope, of Kingsbridge, Devon, and recently Head Boy of the Thomas Delarue School, has been awarded his Gold under the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Michael won his bronze in 1964, his Silver in 1965 and now has completed the third series successfully in addition to his successes academically at 'A' Level.

He will be receiving his award from Prince Philip early in the New Year at a gathering of several hundred other young men and women who have reached the same standard.

To win the award, Michael completed a 60-mile expedition across a very wet Dart-

moor, tracing the old smugglers' route. He performed regular internal duties over a year at the local police station, relieving police officers for outside duties.

He completed a week's special residential qualification working as a porter at the Kent and Sussex Hospital. His project resulted in some beautifully illustrated research in British heraldry.

To qualify for his fitness section, he walked three miles in 60 minutes (falling several times on the last lap, but keeping going), swam a mile in 68 minutes, threw a cricket ball 40 feet and lobbed it 54 feet.

Two other pupils at the Thomas

Delarue School, another boy and the first girl, are well on their way to joining him as a gold award holder.

Meanwhile, three girl members of the Cardiff '62 Club, all physically handicapped, have also won gold awards. They bring the total of "golds" held by the Club to 24 in six years.

They are 18-year-old Frances Gunning and Rita Price and Sandra Wilding, both 19.

To qualify, between them they helped at old people's homes, painted lockers, made up beds, went caving, did a six-month nursing course, compiled scrap-books and took a course on furnishing and decoration.

YOU WANT TO HELP SPASTICS

Become an agent, sell costume jewellery and other goods made by spastics

WRITE NOW to
HOMEWORK MANAGER,
16, FITZROY SQUARE,
LONDON, W.1.

A RECORD FOR MRS. REDSHAW

MRS. PEGGY REDSHAW of Leeds, produced record results last year from her annual autumn sales at her home at 9, Sandhill Lane, Moortown, and on a local shopping parade.

Last year, the total from her efforts amounted to £760, and of this, £560 goes to the Leeds and District Spastics Society. The remaining £200 was given to the "Yorkshire Evening Post" Christmas Fund.

From red to black with £1,200 in three days

FROM £700 IN THE RED to nearly £500 in the black in three hectic days... This dramatic transformation of the Preston and District Spastics Group's balance sheet was achieved by the 19 members of the four-year-old Preston Amounderness Ladies' Circle in the most successful effort yet put on for Preston's day centre.

The Amounderness Ladies opened a "Good-as-New" shop in the town centre from Thursday until Saturday. So great was the demand that by mid-afternoon on opening day they were appealing for more stock to keep the shop open...

Not all bills were in when this report went to press, but Amounderness Ladies' chairman, Mrs. Christine Holland, expected soon to be handing over to the Preston Group a cheque for nearly £1,200. The shop—an empty supermarket—was loaned free by Tesco.

Dynamo behind the effort was Mrs. Pamela Beaumont, of Broughton, who convinced the Amounderness Ladies of the spastics' need after a visit to the day centre. The money they raise normally goes to a variety of local charities.

In December, Mrs. Beaumont privately organised a Spinners' Ball in Preston, the proceeds from which will also go to the Preston Group.

Night out was big success at St. Austell

There was such a demand in the St. Austell area for tickets when the Friends of Spastics League C.O. 63 Social Group arranged a members' night out to raise money for local charitable projects, that many had to be refused.

Now the group are looking for a larger hall for future events than the one which seated the 350 members and guests who did get tickets.

Among these were Mr. Philip Varcoe, chairman of the Cornish Spastics Society; Mr. G. E. Griffin, chairman of the St. Austell Society, and representatives from Regional Pools Promotions, whose agents comprise the membership of the group.

NOVEMBER 'SUNSHINE MONTH' FOR CROYDON

NOVEMBER is the traditional time for fogs. But not this year at Croydon, where it turned out to be a sunshine month, with a total of approximately £1,407 accruing from various local appeal activities of the Croydon & District Spastics Society.

Purley Neighbourhood Group realised £104 from a wine and cheese party. Addington Toc H members raised £267 with a barrel organ collection in Croydon High Street. Members of the Croydon Youth Council collected £46 at Crystal Palace Football ground.

And the Society's annual bazaar shattered all records with takings of £990—beating last year's best-ever result by £160.

Croydon hopes this "November spectacular" is a favourable augury for their ambitious Mini-Draw which was launched at the bazaar. Run on Premium Bond lines.

£200 FOR REDHILL

The profit from bazaars held at Redhill and Blindley Heath by the South-east Surrey Spastics Group for the Redhill centre was expected to be about £200.

Guy Fawkes took second place...

Rosie, Louise and Marguerite are now firm friends of the Southampton and District Spastics Society—thanks to Guy Fawkes...

Says the Society's secretary, Mr. C. F. Wyatt: "These three young girls went out to collect pennies for the Guy on Guy Fawkes Day, then decided to send the money to the centre for spastic children rather than spend it on fireworks."

"I think this shows a wonderful spirit in these young girls," he added.

83 per cent completed IRU courses

About 83 per cent of the people who entered industrial rehabilitation units run by the Department of Employment and Productivity during 1967 completed their courses satisfactorily.

The number of persons placed in employment or training within three months after leaving the I.R.U. was 6,369. This compared with a total of 6,284 for the previous 12 months.

These figures are given in an article "Industrial Rehabilitation" in the November issue of the Employment and Productivity Gazette.

The Gazette also makes reference to the continuing work of The Spastics Society's training centre, Sherrards, and to the opening of a second centre at Lancaster, enabling the society to have 140 places available for preparing young cerebral palsied people for employment in commerce or industry.



TINA LEADS THE FIELD

Champion collector of Leicester and District — that's Tina Morris of 186 Letchworth Road.

Tina, 21, collected £30 during the Society's flag day out of a total of £571 6s. raised.

At a further fund-raising effort, a bazaar opened by the Patron, Lady Barnett, over £280 was made.

Oakwood's Friends set first target

One of the first tasks of the newly-formed Friends of Oakwood Association will be to make up the £6,000 difference between the fees received at the Centre and its running costs.

The association, which aims to provide a pool of helpers and friends for residents at Kelvedon's Oakwood Centre as well as financial support, will be under the chairmanship of Mr. William Pasque of Colchester.

Also elected at the inaugural meeting were Mrs. F. R. E. Turner (secretary), Mr. E. L. Buck (treasurer) and, to the committee, Mr. John Chamberlain, vice-president, Mrs. D. Boydell and Mr. K. Christmas.

Oakwood provides further education for those severely handicapped who have high academic potential.

20 HOLIDAYS TO BE WON !

TWENTY readers of Spastics News will this month win a week's holiday for up to four people, plus £10 worth of vouchers, at a brand new Pontin Holiday Village at Stockport, the most luxurious of its type in Europe.

Regional Pools Promotions have taken over the entire village for the week starting May 17 for their first Gala Week. There will be a strong charity theme throughout the holiday—and a number of spastics

will be there—and most of the accommodation, for up to 4,000 people will be given away in R.P.P.'s own competitions.

But to spread the net, they have offered Spastics News 20 of the holiday flatlets as awards in this contest.

Each prize consists of the accommodation for up to four people and £10 worth of vouchers so that holiday makers may eat either in the restaurant or

IN THIS FREE AND EASY COMPETITION

cafeteria or cook their own food bought with the vouchers at the village's supermarket.

Spastic or not, enter this free — and easy — competition now.

Each of the flatlets offered as prizes has a sitting room with television, a bedroom, a kitchen and a bathroom and can accommodate four people.

Swimming pools, dance halls, shows and the many other facilities of the village will be available.

WHAT TO DO

Below are a list of familiar places or areas in Great Britain and a set of clues. Decide which place-name best answers each clue and enter it in the coupon against the appropriate number. It's as simple as that. Or is it? Try it and see...

WELLINGTON, WOOLWICH, ECCLES, NELSON, TOTTENHAM, BLACKBURN, TYNEMOUTH, BRIGHTON, BLACKPOOL, BATH, CHEDDAR, EPSOM, PLYMOUTH, BANBURY, PORTSMOUTH, CHESHIRE.

Clues

- Has made its mark at the tea-table.
- Where the Gunners sometimes fire away.
- Concerned in a well-known order.
- Rock town.
- Firm favourite among diners.
- Salt often sought in the bathroom cabinet.
- With an affection for Victory.
- An asphalt lake?

RULES OF THE CONTEST

- Any number of entries may be submitted from one address, provided each is on an entry form taken from Spastics News, but only one prize per person will be permitted.
- The prizes will be awarded to the first 20 entries opened after the closing date which match, or most closely match, the set of answers which the Editor considers most apt. In the event of winners not accepting their awards, the prize will in each case be awarded to the next most correct entry.
- Closing date for entries will be first post, January 13. Winners will be announced in the February issue.
- The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into. Submission of an entry will imply acceptance of these rules by the entrant.

Mark envelopes "Holiday Contest"

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....

(PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS)

ensure
**WARM
DRY
FEET**



Welslips are a must for all wearers of rubber boots

WELSLIPS
WORN INSIDE WELLINGTONS

The only complete answer to the rubber boot problem

Welslips are being manufactured in the Spastics Workshop under the direction of the Wellington Slipper Co. Ltd., by whom they were previously made.

Always wear Welslips inside your Wellingtons to keep your feet dry and healthy

All Leather, Adults 10/6

Childs* 7/11

Sheepskin, Adults 15/11

Childs* 12/11

*Child sizes 10, 12, 1, 2, 3 only
P. & P. 1 Pr. 9d., 2 Prs. 1/-, 3 Prs. 1/6d.
4 Prs. Post Free.

* Please state your SHOE size not your Wellington size

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
(WELSLIPS DEPT. F.I.)
DRUMMOND, FEERING, ESSEX

Fire disaster: what do we do?

FOURTEEN SPASTIC children died and seventeen others were seriously hurt when fire swept their dormitory at a children's home in Froissy, France. Eighteen months ago, a similar fire cost the lives of 18 children in a home in the French Alps.

Following this tragic fire, "Spastics News" set out to discover what efforts were made by the Spastics Society to prevent such disasters occurring in its homes and centres.

Mr. J. Le Provost, Education Officer of the Society, said: "This dreadful story from France highlights the ever-present anxiety of us all about

fire. No building can be used for the care of children or adults in this country unless the local Fire Officer has certified that all reasonable steps have been taken.

"Fire regulations lay down clearly what steps must be

taken; warning systems, fire alarms, auxiliary lighting, escape chutes, etc.

"A minimum number of staff are always available in the premises to ensure complete evacuation in two minutes or less, by night or by day.

"Drills are held at regular intervals to accustom the residents so that there shall be no panic, should the real thing occur. These drills are recorded, and the Management Committee are informed at each of their meetings that the drill has been held.

THE WORST THING

"The Fire Service like to attend these drills and the children especially like them to be there. The heads and their staffs are always aware that the worst thing they may face is fire, that every step must always be taken to minimise its occurrence, and that, if it happens, they know exactly what to do. The residents, too, know what their part will be.

"We hope it will never happen. If it does, we will know how to deal with it. If the Fire Officer makes a recommendation, whatever the cost, our Committee approve the expenditure."

GOOD SHOW

Three children, none older than 13, have handed over £48 10s. to the Coalville and District Spastics Society.

They raised it at a Christmas fair at a local school—and got the deputy head of another school to act as official opener. They are Vivian Smith, and Katharine and Kevin Freeman.

Pretence was to 'get own back' for a good hiding

An 18-year-old spastic at Streatham pretended to be a collector for disabled children to procure charitable contributions, it was stated at Balham Court.

Terence Desmond Gee, kitchen porter, pleaded guilty to trying to procure charitable contributions under a false pretence.

Gee was said to have told a police inspector: "My mother gave me a good hiding and this was the way of getting my own back."

After hearing from his mother, the magistrate gave Gee a conditional discharge for 12 months.

TAXI TRIPS

Handicapped children in Cheltenham were given free transport to the "Princess and Panda" Christmas entertainment in Gloucester by courtesy of a local taxi firm.

Navy sails in to give Society the sack

CAPTAIN Hubert French, (R.N. (Retd.) is turning the energy and initiative of the sailor to good account in a completely different sphere of life.

During the past few months, he has collected 150 sacks of milk bottle tops and other aluminium foil which will be used for the benefit of spastics.

Capt. French, with naval thoroughness, has a l s o cleaned and sorted the material into appropriate sacks in order to obtain the highest price.

He lives at "Oakwood," Hastings Road, Telham, Battle, Sussex, and would like to hear from people in the area who would help him in his effort.

Or try to beat his record of 150 sacks. Any offers ... ?



Session with 'Humph'

Famous jazz musician Humphrey Lyttelton was the star celebrity at an annual Pop-Folk-Jazz Night at Oakwood spastics centre, Kelvedon. Don and Maureen Wallace, of Colchester, were winners of the folk singing contest and are congratulated (above) by "Humph" who presented the prizes. He also led the band in a session (right) which was greatly enjoyed by the residents.



(Pictures by courtesy of Essex County Standard).

'Challengers' will fight for better conditions

Mothers of spastic, spina bifida, mongol and other handicapped children have got together in the Birmingham area to fight for better conditions and more facilities for their children and themselves.

Calling themselves "The Challengers" they also meet to fill another need especially relevant to the mothers of handicapped children—to talk about their problems with those similarly placed.

They also hope to start a play centre and are looking for ways of providing transport.

There are already more than 20 mother-members. The secretary is Mrs. Brenda Cresswell, 65 Hamilton Road, Smethwick.

Fashion event

Six local shops and stores staged a fashion show in aid of the Thanet Branch of The Spastics Society at the Rathcoole Hotel, Margate.

Musical entertainment was also provided and later the chairman of the branch said the event had raised about £50.

After five years, riding club team 'takes up reins'

AFTER FIVE YEARS of planning and effort The Riding for the Disabled (Formby Group) has been established, with a permanent committee and honorary officers.

A recent meeting at which the officials were elected was the sequel to an evening out spent, over five years ago, by some members of the local Spastics Society at The Saddle Club, Prenton, Cheshire. As a result of the pleasure which riding obviously gave the spastics, the then-Chairman, Mrs. M. Behn and the secretary, Mrs. E. Rimmer made up their minds that a project for the future should be a "Riding for the Disabled" Club.

But the Centre, at "Number five", Marlborough Road, Waterloo had only just been opened, and other things demanded attention.

Some time later, after the departure of Mrs. Behn from the district, Mrs. Rimmer saw a television film about the "Pony Riding for the Disabled Trust" at Chigwell.

GRATIFYING

After contacting the organiser at Chigwell, Mrs. Rimmer set about interesting various bodies in a similar plan for the local area. She was met with such remarks as: "Riding is not very popular in Lancashire" ... Then Mrs. Rimmer heard that Mary Bowler, who ran a riding school, was very interested, and already had some handicapped children on her books.

Lessons were started for a small group of spastics, and, early in 1968 an inaugural meeting was held and some of the representatives of various interests who were present promised support.

A coffee morning arranged by Mrs. Pringle of Villa-de-Marley gave the funds a start of nearly £70, and in November Mrs. Pringle was elected chairman, Mrs. K. Hawkins treasurer and Mrs. S. M. Massey secretary of the new Formby Group.

Said Mrs. Rimmer: "It is gratifying to know that the needs of the handicapped person who wishes and is able to enjoy riding are in the very capable hands of Miss Bowler, the helpers, the committee and its honorary officers.

THE PROMISE OF A NEW PRODUCT

Story behind Welslips, the promising product which has been taken over by the Spastics Society and is being made at Drummonds, shows how the simplest of ideas can have commercial applications.

Welslips are a slipper of leather or sheepskin which are worn inside Wellington boots. They are comfortable and allow the feet to breathe as well as ensuring warmth and dryness.

They have already been supplied to agricultural institutes colleges, veterinary surgeons, Ministry and industrial departments and are worn in many parts of the world, even in hot climates.

Remembering a colleague ...

Workers at a Midlands factory were moved by the death of one of their colleagues to make a collection for The Spastics Society.

Mr M. R. Venables, Senior Regional Officer, Midlands said: "One hears so much about strikes that I think it should be known that I have received a cheque for £16 10s. from the Joseph Lucas factory at Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

"It is the proceeds of a collection made by the employees at the factory in memory of one of the colleagues who died suddenly.

"The cheque has been forwarded to the Midlands Spastic Association."



Mrs. E. Stubbings (right) demonstrates cosmetics to resident and staff of Scalescough Home for Spastics, near Carlisle. They were among those at a coffee evening arranged by the Cockerthorpe Branch of the Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society.

(Photo by courtesy of Cumberland Evening News).

CONCERTED EFFORT

Mr. Timothy Waterman, a spastic who lives at Sunnyhill Farm, Nether Stowey, Somerset organised a concert—in aid of spastics.

Held in Spaxton Village Hall, the concert realised £30 for the Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association's centre.

Remploy deficit over £3m.

SIR ERIC BINGEN, chairman of Remploy Ltd., presented the company's annual accounts for 1967/68 at a Press conference at the Waldorf Hotel, London.

He said that his organisation, Government-sponsored for the employment of disabled people, had passed two milestones during the year. For the first time, over 7,000 disabled people were employed over the year and annual sales had reached a record level of £8 million.

However, despite these figures and the high quality of work produced, the company had an annual deficit of over £3½ million, which was met by the Department of Employment and Productivity.

In his review, Sir Eric also spoke of the cross-Channel sail made by two spastics.

Peter West and Roger Holt, which was sponsored jointly by Remploy and the '62 Clubs.

Mr. West is employed as Senior Engineering Inspector at Remploy's Holloway factory. He attended the Press conference with his wife Marianne, who gives talks about The Spastics Society to schools and other organisations.

After the presentation of the accounts, members of the Press were invited to examine goods made by Remploy, which was first set up in 1945 under the Disabled Persons Employment Act, implemented by Ernest Bevin. Its first workshop opened in 1946 and there are now 85 factories scattered throughout Britain's main industrial areas.

The company provides work for people with all types of disability, including amputations, paralysis, heart and chest diseases, epilepsy and nervous and mental illnesses. Twenty-eight per cent of the workers are ex-service men and women.

Production at each factory is divided into five groups—furniture and joinery, engineering, packaging and book-binding, leather goods and textile sewing and knitwear.

Among the products on display, the furniture attracted the most attention. This included well-made tables, kitchen units and upholstered chairs in up-to-date designs, but with a sturdy-looking quality which so much modern furniture lacks.

IT'S GETTING AROUND

HERE ARE SOME interesting ways of getting around... They range from an "amateur" adapted car seat which has now "gone commercial" to a go-cart support.

In October 1967, Spastics News told the story of a small wheelchair made up by a Glasgow surgeon from a child's car seat.

This is now manufactured by Amesbury Surgical Appliances and sells for £14 10s. The chair, "The Yorkhill", can also be supplied, through a prescribing specialist, under the National Health Service.

It has an adjustable tray, collapses to the width of the wheelbase and has a footrest which is adjustable and can be slid to the top to give a single level platform as in the photograph.

There is also a stand which lifts the driving wheels off the floor. As extras, there are a cushion and an adult push-bar.

The same firm also market an easily adjustable mini-walker with sling saddle for £12.

A prototype chair designed by the Cell Barnes Hospital, St. Albans and manufactured by Modern Tubular Productions Ltd. of Egham is offered for assessment at £18 12s 6d.

The angle of seat, the footrest and the footboard are separately adjustable.

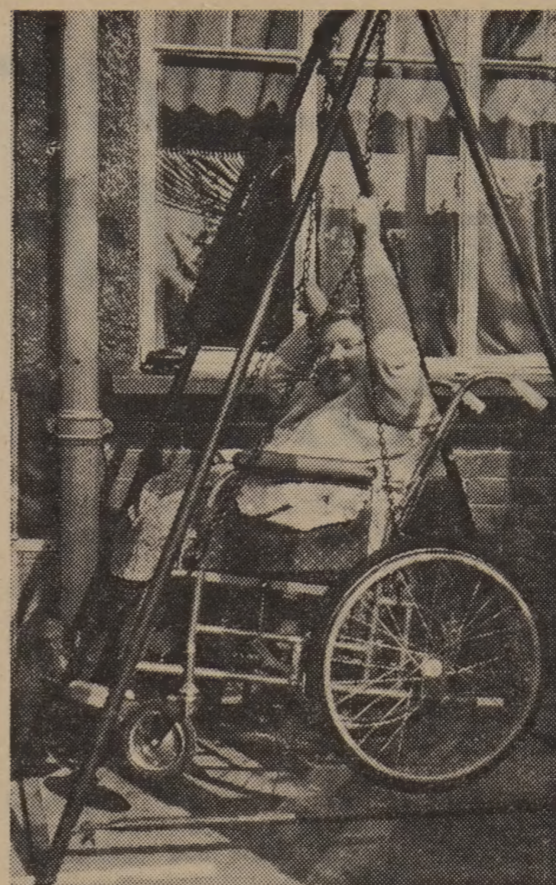
A new idea comes from The



White Lodge, Chertsey. The waistcoat securely tied round the child is also fitted over the back of the go-cart, so giving positive support.

For additional information about these and other aids, write to The Information Clerk; Aids and Appliances, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

The "car-seat" wheelchair, now in production.



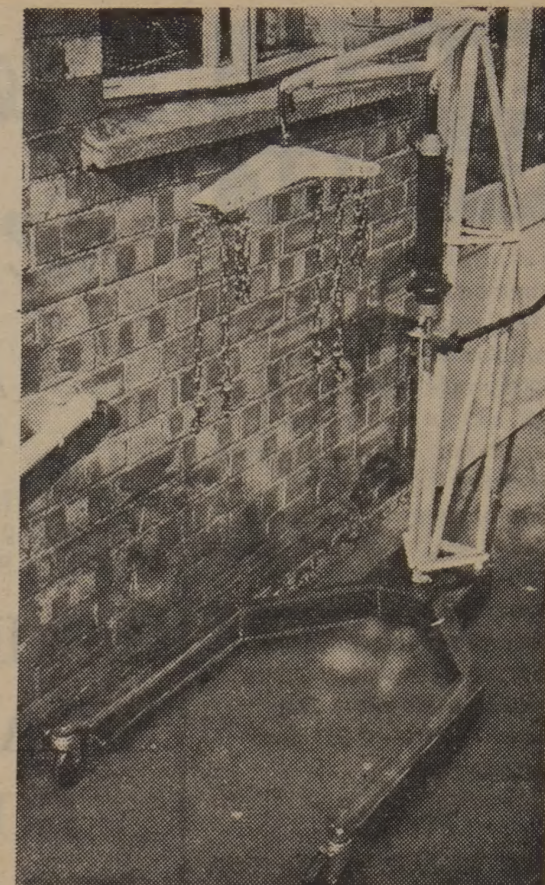
SWINGING TIME FOR JACQUELINE

Miss Jacqueline Ball now has a swinging time in her wheelchair, thanks to a £10 piece of equipment made locally to her father's specification.

The swing's chains hook securely on to the arms of the chair and with a single push the wheel-

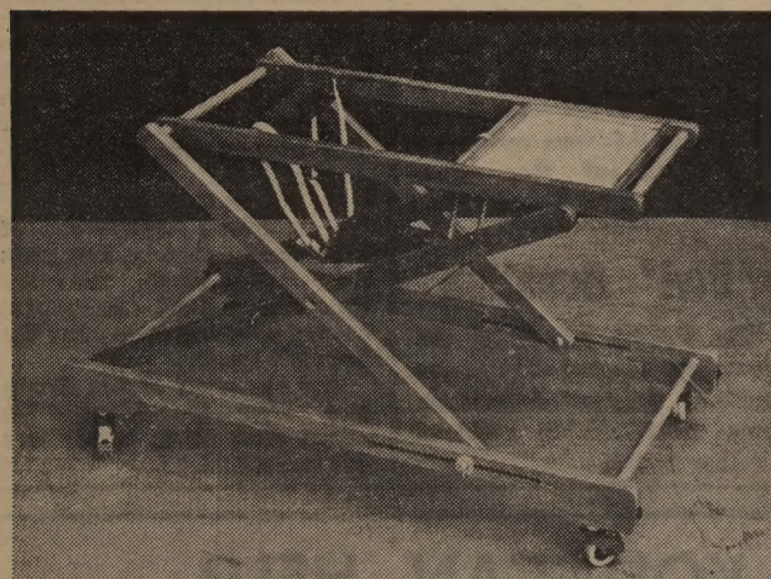
chair will swing for a considerable time.

The Ball family get the wheelchair off the ground with an Oxford hoist. It folds flat for carrying in a car. From Rank Medical Equipment, Welwyn: Price £55 basic.

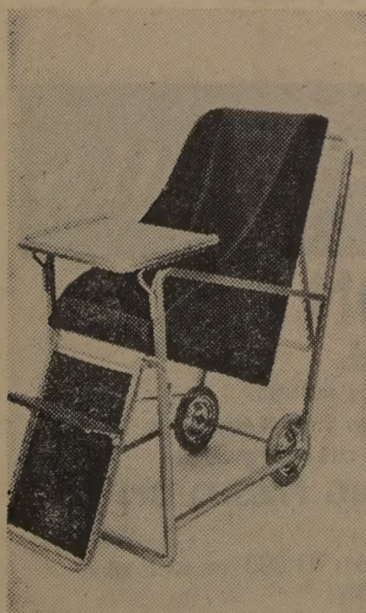


Group tribute to physiotherapist

Miss C. V. Thurston, who recently retired as senior physiotherapist at Swansea's orthopaedic clinic, was presented with a clock by Swansea and District Spastic Association for her skill, dedication to duty and understanding, said the president, Mr. Alan Williams, M.P.



The sling-saddle mini-walker.



The chair offered for assessment (left).

Below: The waist-coat support for a child in a go-cart.



The Superb NEWTON

Wheelchair

the lightest wheelchair made



Exclusive patented

NEWTON features

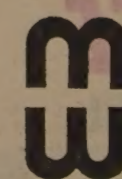
Instantly detachable padded armrests featuring a press button autolock

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SMALL corner

Try a "small ad" in Spastics News if you want to buy or sell, and get the benefit of its national circulation. Remember—over 200,000 people read this newspaper, and for a very modest outlay, results are as near certain as they can be.

The rates for private advertisements in the "small ads" column are only 2/6 per line, with a minimum of three lines, allowing five words per line. Cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made out to The Spastics Society. (Trade rates on application).

For Sale

"THE WORLD of the Children," three-volume encyclopaedia for the up-to-14s, £1 set. Buoyancy jackets for sailing, new condition, one extra large, one medium, £1 each. Heathkit amateur communications receiver R.A.I., brand new, factory aligned, £35 including carriage. 6 Common Lane, Sawston, Cambs. Phone 3093.

SPECIAL for parents: "Handling the Cerebral Palsied Child at Home," by Nancie R. Finnie, M.C.S.P. An invaluable handbook. From Heinemann, 18s. "Assessment of the Cerebrally Palsied Child for Education," edited by James Loring. From Spastics Society Publications Department, 15s.

BENCRAFT self-propelling wheelchair. Good condition, 1962 model. £15 or nearest offer. Mrs. Till, 16 Fitzroy Square, London W.1.

Personal

FREE: Two one-year subscriptions to "Spastics News" have been offered by a donor. The editor would be glad to have suggestions as to who should receive them.

DANCE: Come to the Valentine's Eve Dance at the Lyceum, Aldwych and help the Society's Westminster Appeal. Top group and big bands. Tickets 15/- each from Hilary Van Geest, 12 Park Crescent, W.1.

Pen Pals

YOUNG MALE spastic, aged 21, would like to correspond with young lady between 17 and 20 who enjoys walking and likes sports cars. Anthony Goodfellow, 71 Mill End Road, Cherry Hinton, Cambridge.

I AM 15 years old and would like to write to a boy and to know more about his country. I am handicapped, too. Maria Rivas, 2707 Geary Terr., Philadelphia, Penn. 19145.

BARBARA STAGG, aged 16, is confined to a wheelchair, much of the time at home. She would be delighted to hear from pen friends. She lives at 199 Southampton Street, Reading.

Swim marathon may set world record

THE SWIMMING marathon which local sportsmen are staging in aid of the Scunthorpe Spastics Centre may be coupled with the setting of a new world record.

MAKING A SPLASH AT COLLEGE

Splashing about in warm water is considered to be one of the best forms of therapy for handicapped people. Swimming pools all over the country are beginning to set aside special times when the water temperature is increased and the disabled can be taught to swim in comfort.

The Oxford Disabled Swimming Club, for example, meets from 9.30 to 12 on alternate Sunday mornings at the Westminster College pool. The College lets the club use the pool for the whole morning at the cost of one hour's rental.

The club was started three years ago by Miss Marjorie Gorton, an occupational therapist and Miss Mary Kennedy, a former almoner.

Many of the disabled members had never been in the water before they joined the club, but some who are confined to wheelchairs on dry land, have now learned to swim with the aid of voluntary helpers.

Fair total

More than £400 was added to the funds of the Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society as a result of a Christmas Fair at Heaton Chapel Reform Club. Over 500 people attended.

The organisers of the all-night swim are trying to find out if there is a world record to be beaten.

The Warden of the Centre, Mr. D. Hazleton, said: "I don't think 100 miles has been swum in a bath in a fixed time."

"If we can establish a world record it would create interest both inside and outside the town."

The date of the attempt has not yet been fixed but it is expected to be in early Spring.

'62 club take prizes

Three members of the Bedford '62 Club won awards at the town's Red Cross Exhibition in the Modern School Hall.

They are Tony Wharton, who took a first and a second prize for a stool and a chair, David Stevens (second, rug) and the Club's secretary, Miss Maureen Woods (second, babies' carrying cape, and highly commended, pram cover).

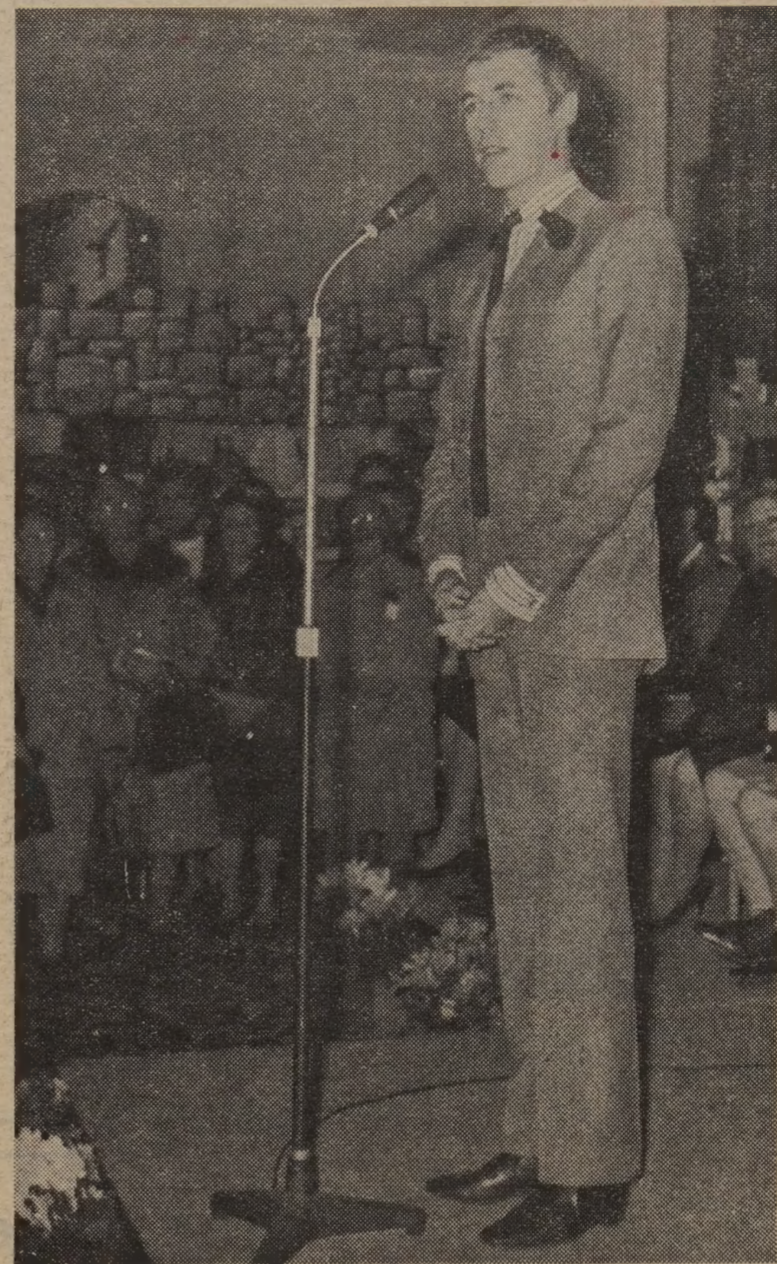
Billiards champ's home-town visit

TOP BILLIARDS professionals, Joyce Gardner and Jack Rea, gave exhibitions of their skill in five Gloucester clubs recently.

For Miss Gardner, seven times women's professional billiards champion, it was a return visit to her home town.

Jack Rea has been Irish professional for 20 years and has also won a number of English trophies.

Only one local player out of



Simon Dee, star of TV's "Dee-Time" and a member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, speaking at the opening of the United Charities Fair at Grosvenor House, London. S.O.S. were among the stallholders, and they raised about £500 for their funds.

'Divi' donation

The Falkirk branch of the Co-op has donated £110 to the Scottish Spastics Association from their charity dividend number 21,000.

Music can lead to better results

A VIEW of art as therapy was presented by Prof. J. W. Tibble, a member of the "Music for the Handicapped" sub-committee of the Standing Conference of Amateur Music, at the annual meeting of the Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Prof. Tibble said children learned by succeeding, not by failure and frustration. Unresolved learning difficulties spread to other areas and became worse. The reverse was also true, and the beneficial effects of success spread and became cumulative, with resulting therapeutic value to the child.

Art, craft, music, dance and drama had a special value in improving a child's success level because they were less subject to achievement pressures and conventions.

A three-year project, "Music for the Slow Learner," had been started at Dartington College of Arts in the belief that music had a unique contribution to make to the education of handicapped children, whether intellectually retarded or held back because of a physical handicap.

BANNED CLUB HANDS OVER ITS ASSETS

Young people from the village of Hunton, near Maidstone, collected nearly £50 to form a youth club there—but the local council refused them permission on the grounds that they might not be able to control it.

So, at the Christmas Fair of the Maidstone Area Group of the Spastics Society, two girls from the village, Christine Elliott and Hazel Cheeseman, handed over the money for the Society's funds.

The chairman of the Group said after the Fair: "We raised over £200, which was our target."

Briefly . . .

SIX HUNDRED people danced Hallowe'en away at the City Hall, Salisbury — and brought in over £500 for a new unit for handicapped children at Odstock Hospital.

The ball was arranged by the Salisbury and District Spastic Association, who, with the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Salisbury Group, have been asked to contribute £4,000 towards the £10,500 needed for the centre.

* * *

An appeal for more money and help was made at the annual meeting of the Stockport, East

Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society.

Said the treasurer, Mr. C. Knowles: "We are just keeping our heads above water. We need new money-making ideas . . . The £12,348 income raised by the various activities of the society is far below our usual figure." Officers re-elected were: Mr. G. Garner (chairman); Mr. M. Moss (vice-chairman); Mr. R. Leach (secretary) and Mr. Knowles.

* * *

The Army Apprentices' College, Hadrian's Camp, Carlisle, has collected £400 for machinery and equipment to be used in the workshop of Scalesceugh Home for Spastics. The equipment is to include a printing press which will be used to provide letter headings and invitations for the various local organisations who support the home.

* * *

Mr. Donald Holden, a spastic from Burton-on-Trent, is a keen Archers fan. Through the Burton Round Table "Grant a Wish" scheme, he was taken to the Birmingham BBC studios where he met the cast of the Archers. After lunch with them, Mr. Holden was given an autographed copy of the script recorded that day.

* * *

The Portsmouth and District Spastics Society has received a new mini bus from the Bonhomie Society. This organisation has

given 43 mini-buses to South Coast charities in under seven years.

* * *

More than £130 was raised at a Tyrolean evening held by Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society. Taped Austrian music helped provide the background atmosphere at the event, which included dancing, a buffet supper and entertainment by members of Stockport Operatic Society.

* * *

Members of local youth clubs have been regularly entertained at the Scunthorpe Spastics centre for some time. Now the scheme is to become reciprocal and residents are being invited to become full-time members of the clubs.

Transport problems and the bulkiness of wheelchairs restrict the number of spastics who can attend. However, it is hoped that each club in the area will be able to take one or two residents.

* * *

Winchester Spastics Society received £50 following a successful flower show held by Houghton Horticultural Society, Hampshire . . . A bazaar held in Luton raised just over £102 for the local spastics centre . . . The small swimming pool at Romford Road Baths, West Ham is to be converted into a special hydrotherapy pool for spastics.

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I enclose a cheque/postal order for 9/-.

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